

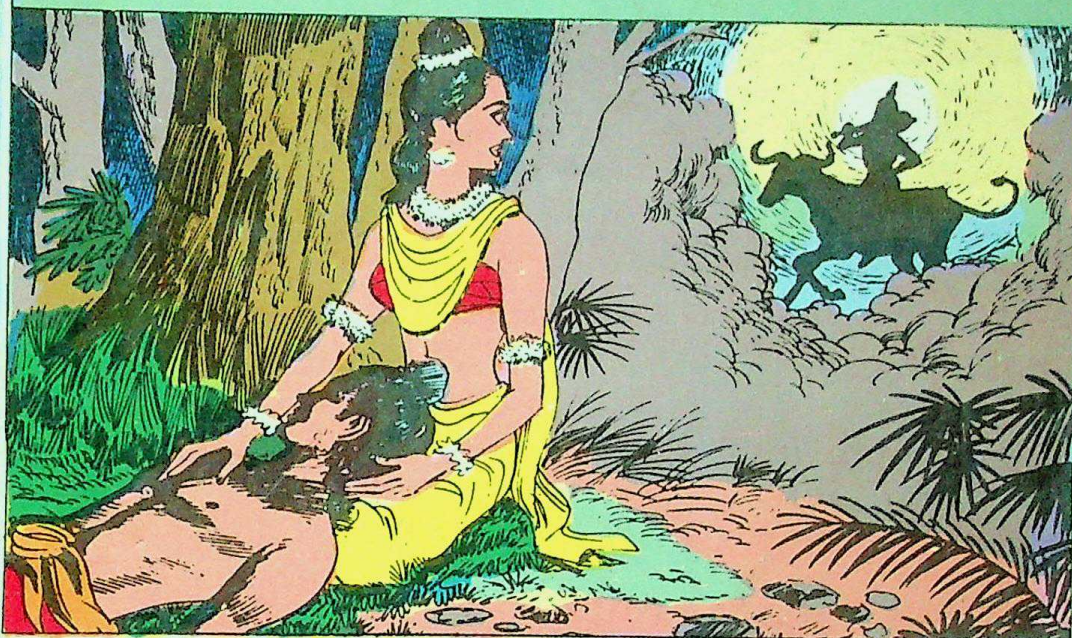


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BUMPER ISSUE

Tales of LOVE AND DEVOTION



★ SAVITRI ★ DAMAYANTI
★ SHAKUNTALA

This book belongs to :

TALES OF LOVE AND DEVOTION

All the three stories retold in this volume are found in the Mahabharata.

Savitri, Damayanti and Shakuntala are known for their love for their husbands. Each shares her husband's sufferings and ultimately delivers him from his misfortunes through her strength of character.

SAVITRI



LONG AGO, IN THE KINGDOM OF
MADRA RULED A KING CALLED ASVAPATI.
HE WAS A RIGHTEOUS KING.

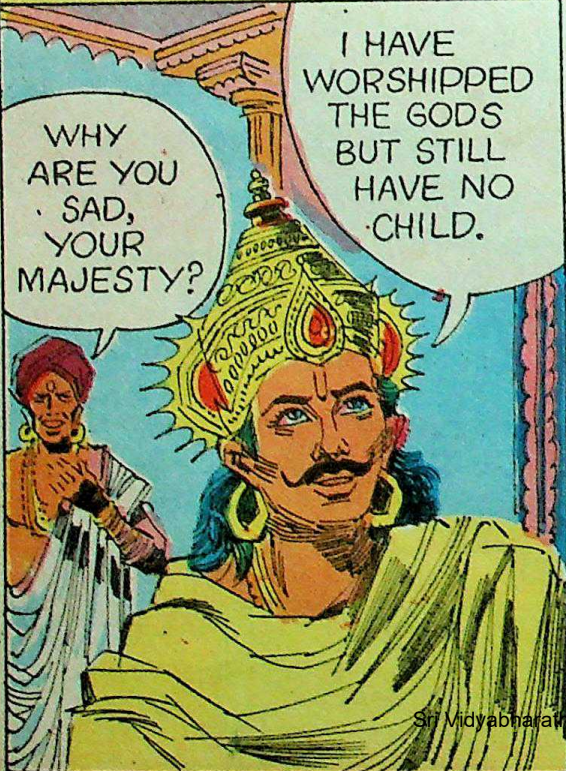
HE HAD MANY WIVES - AS WAS THE CUSTOM IN THOSE DAYS.
THE PALACE ECHOED WITH THEIR HAPPY VOICES.



BUT ASVAPATI WAS
UNHAPPY. HE HAD
NO CHILDREN.

WHY
ARE YOU
SAD,
YOUR
MAJESTY?

I HAVE
WORSHIPPED
THE GODS
BUT STILL
HAVE NO
CHILD.

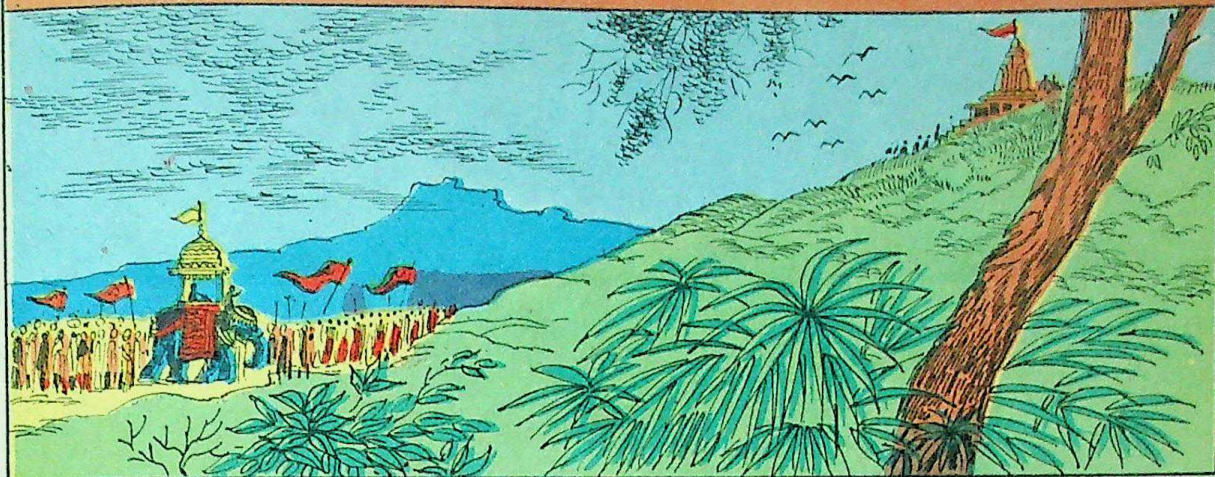


YOUR
MAJESTY!
I HAVE
HEARD
GOD SAVITR
FULFILLS
MANY
WISHES!

SAVITR?
THEN I
SHALL GO
TO HIS
TEMPLE.

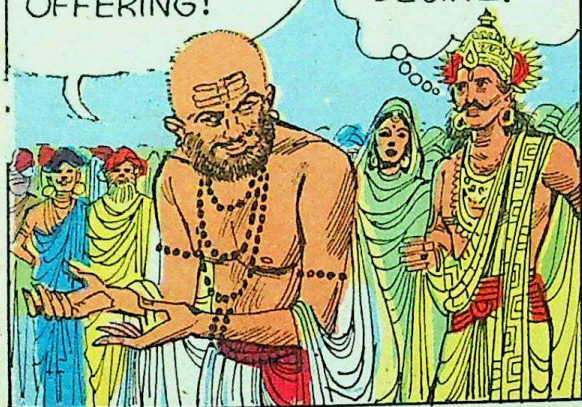


SOON A ROYAL PROCESSION WOULD ITS WAY TO THE SAVITR TEMPLE...



FROM THIS
HOLY FIRE THE
GOD WILL
ACCEPT YOUR
OFFERING!

WILL HE
FULFIL MY
HEART'S
DESIRE?



THEN THE TEMPLE WAS BATHED
IN LIGHT AND THE GOD
APPEARED BEFORE THE KING.

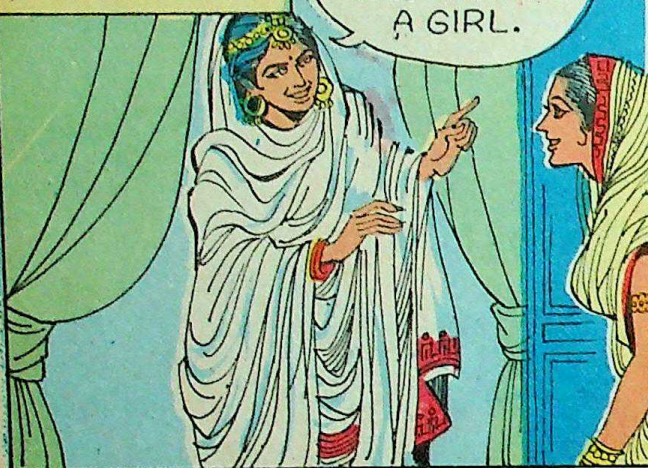
YOU ARE PURE
IN HEART!
YOUR WISH
WILL BE
FULFILLED!



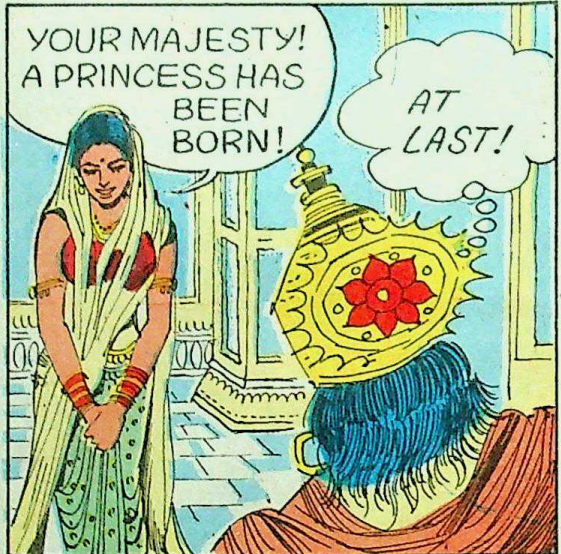
THE MONTHS PASSED. ON THE DAY OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH, THE PEOPLE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATES WAITING FOR THE NEWS.



IN THE PALACE, LATER -



YOUR MAJESTY! A PRINCESS HAS BEEN BORN!



THE WHOLE KINGDOM REJOICED. THE KING GAVE AWAY CLOTHES AND JEWELS.



I SHALL CALL HER SAVITRI AFTER THE GOD SAVITR.

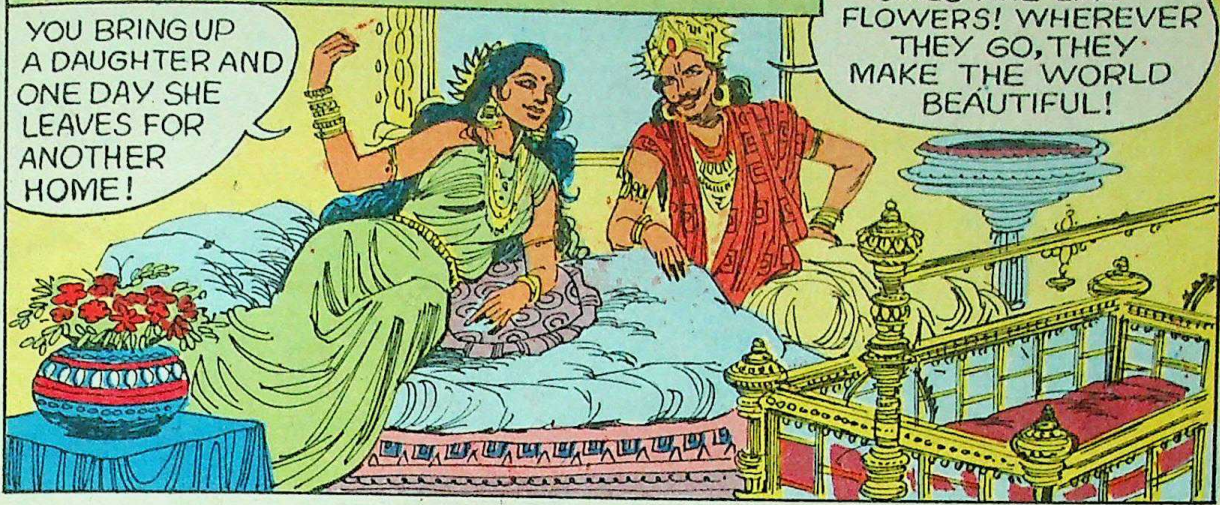


THE PALACE WAS FILLED WITH THE CHILD'S LAUGHTER.

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YOU BRING UP
A DAUGHTER AND
ONE DAY SHE
LEAVES FOR
ANOTHER
HOME!

GIRLS ARE LIKE
FLOWERS! WHEREVER
THEY GO, THEY
MAKE THE WORLD
BEAUTIFUL!



AS SHE GREW UP, SAVITRI LEARNT
MUSIC, PHILOSOPHY...



...AND ASTRONOMY...

DO STARS
RULE OUR
FATE?



...THEN TO THE
GROWING GIRL CAME
THE KNOWLEDGE
OF PAIN... OF
SEPARATION.

FATHER! MY
FRIENDS SAY A
GIRL MUST
MARRY AND GO
AWAY! I WILL
NOT GO
ANYWHERE!

HA! HA!
IT'S NOT TIME.
YET FOR THAT,
MY DEAR!



BUT TIME PASSED... SAVITRI HAD GROWN TO BE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. ONE DAY SHE CAME TO HER FATHER.

FATHER! MAY I GO TO THE TEMPLE?

ALL ALONE?
WELL, YES!
YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH!

THE QUIET STILLNESS OF THE TEMPLE SITUATED ON A HILL TOP, SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS.

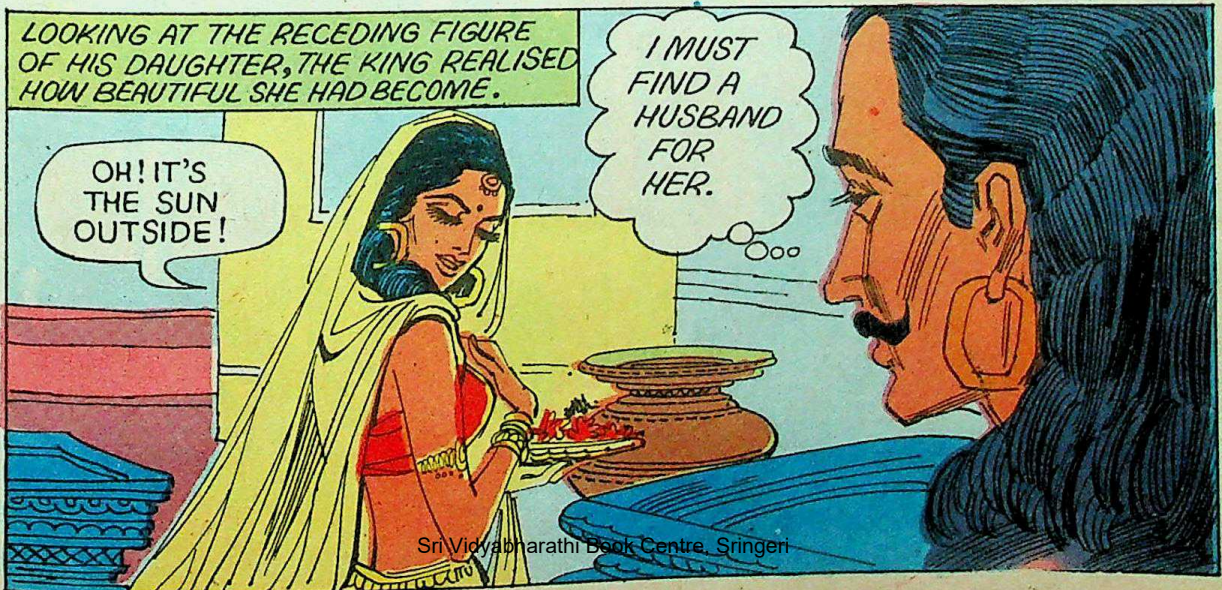
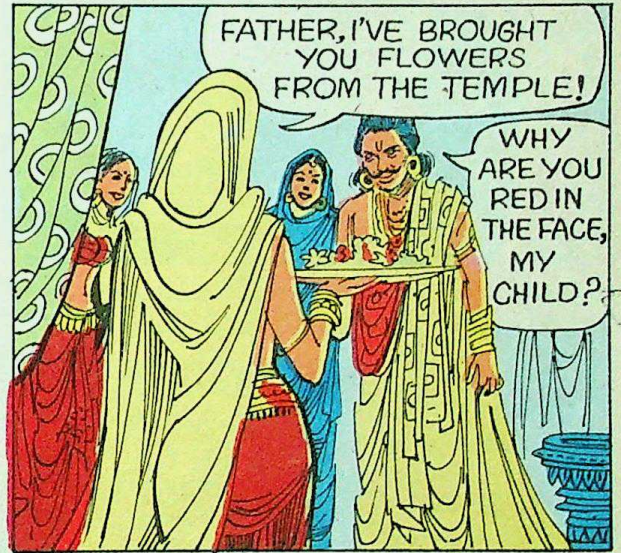
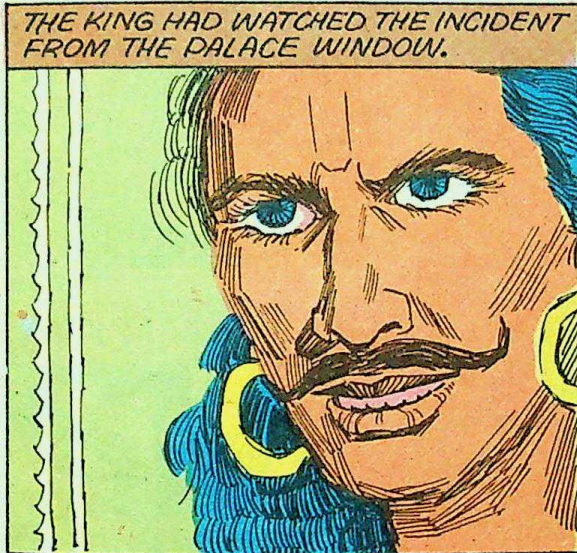
WHY DIDN'T I COME HERE BEFORE?

ON HER WAY BACK SAVITRI SAW A GROUP OF YOUNG OFFICERS RIDING NEAR THE PALACE GATE.

GOOD DAY, PRINCESS!

WHY DID YOU BOW YOUR HEAD TO ME?

BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR PRINCESS!



NEWS OF SAVITRI'S BEAUTY
AND LEARNING HAD REACHED
OTHER ROYAL COURTS.

THE MADRA
KING'S DAUGHTER
IS ELIGIBLE
FOR MARRIAGE!

LOOK AT
MY SONS!
HOW CAN
YOU THINK
OF SUCH A
MATCH?

ANOTHER KING'S COURT—

NO, NOT MY
SON! A LEARNED
WOMAN LIKE
HER DESERVES
SOMEONE
BETTER!

IT WAS THE SAME STORY EVERYWHERE...

THE PRINCE HAS
GROWN UP. SHALL
WE APPROACH
THE KING
OF MADRA?

YOU MEAN
SAVITRI? NO, I
DON'T THINK WE
CAN DO HER
HONOUR!

...NO ONE DARED ASK FOR SAVITRI'S HAND.

HAVE WE
RECEIVED ANY
PROPOSALS
FOR
SAVITRI?

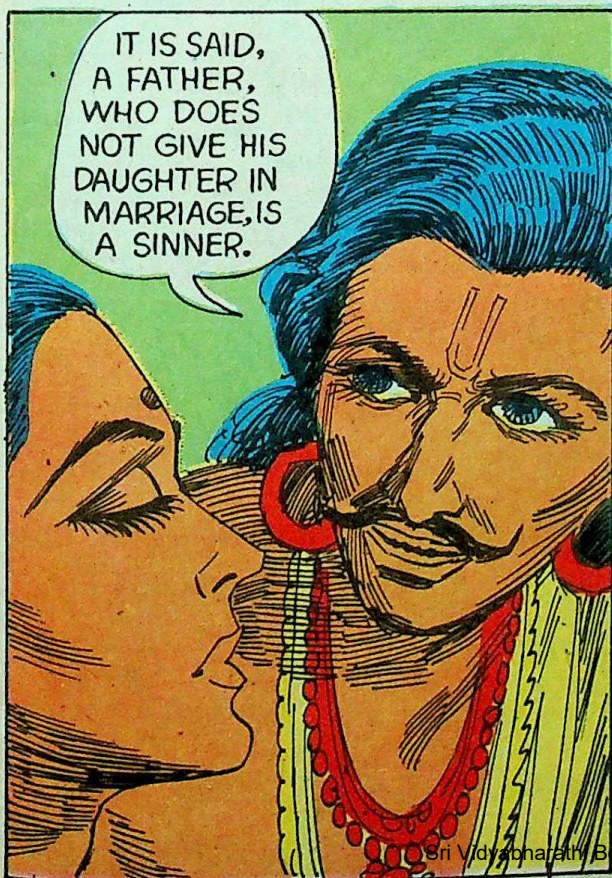
NO, YOUR
MAJESTY!

THE COURT JESTER CAME
OUT WITH ANOTHER IDEA...

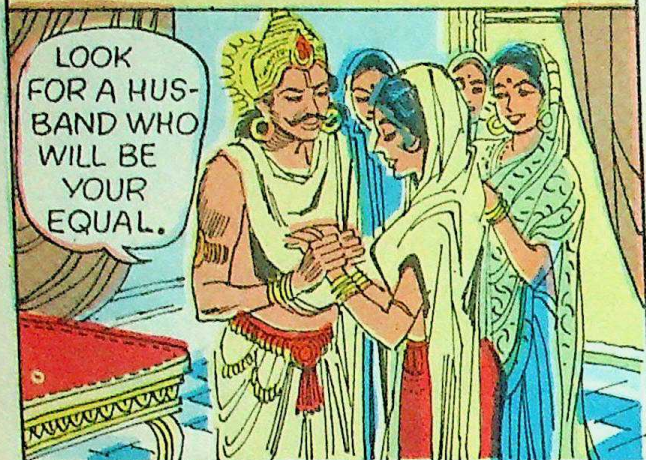
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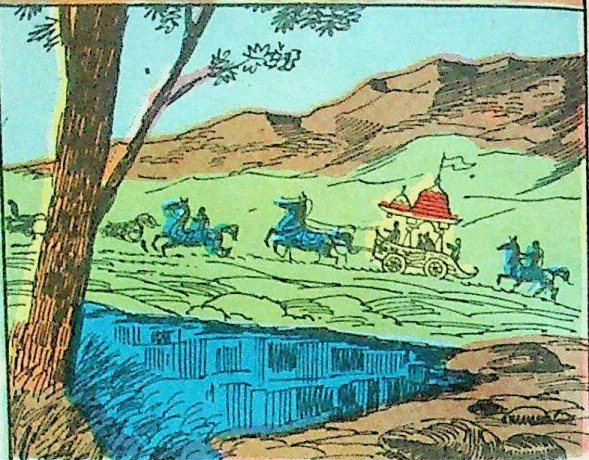
THE KING LIKED THE IDEA. HE
CALLED SAVITRI TO HIS ROOM.
SAVITRI WAS RELUCTANT.



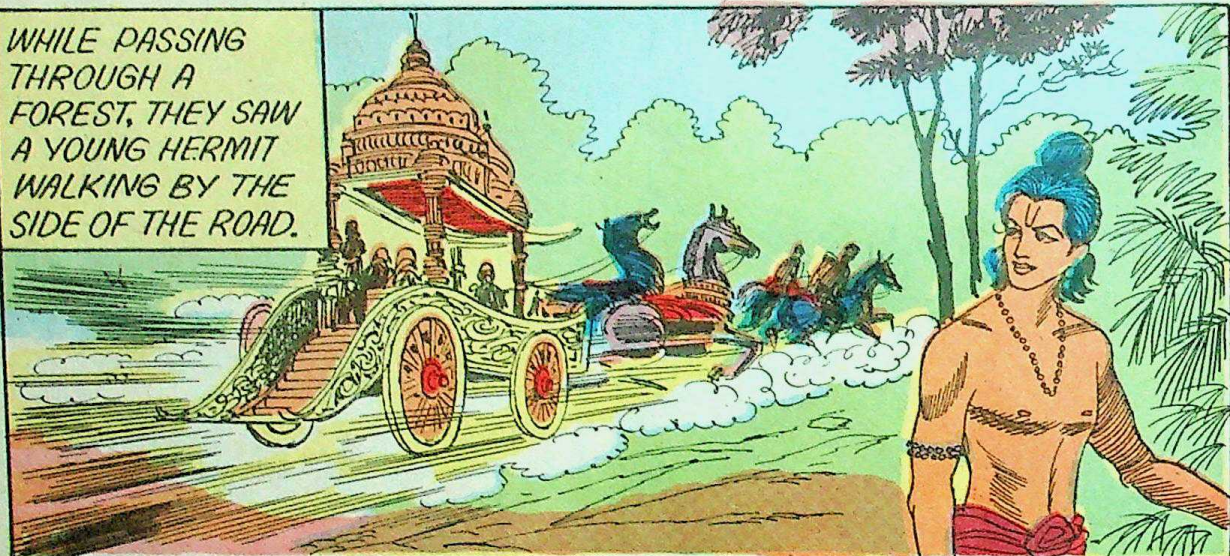
IT WAS ARRANGED THAT SAVITRI WOULD GO ON A TRIP THROUGH MANY KINGDOMS. THE MINISTER WOULD ACCOMPANY HER.



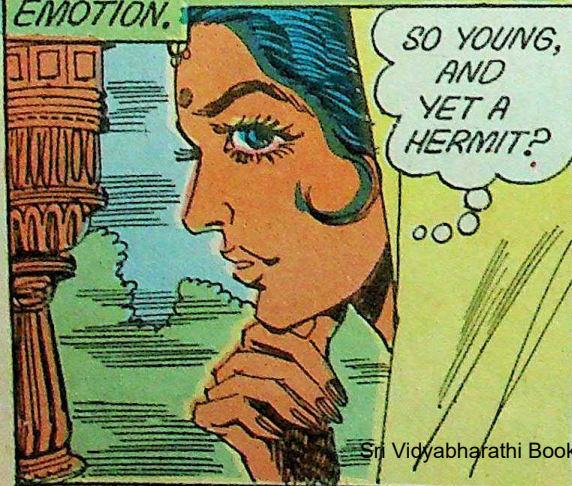
SAVITRI WAS THRILLED WITH THE JOURNEY—SHE WOULD VISIT SO MANY HOLY PLACES.



WHILE PASSING THROUGH A FOREST, THEY SAW A YOUNG HERMIT WALKING BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.



SAVITRI'S EYES FELL ON THE YOUNG MAN'S FACE AND SHE FELT A STRANGE EMOTION.

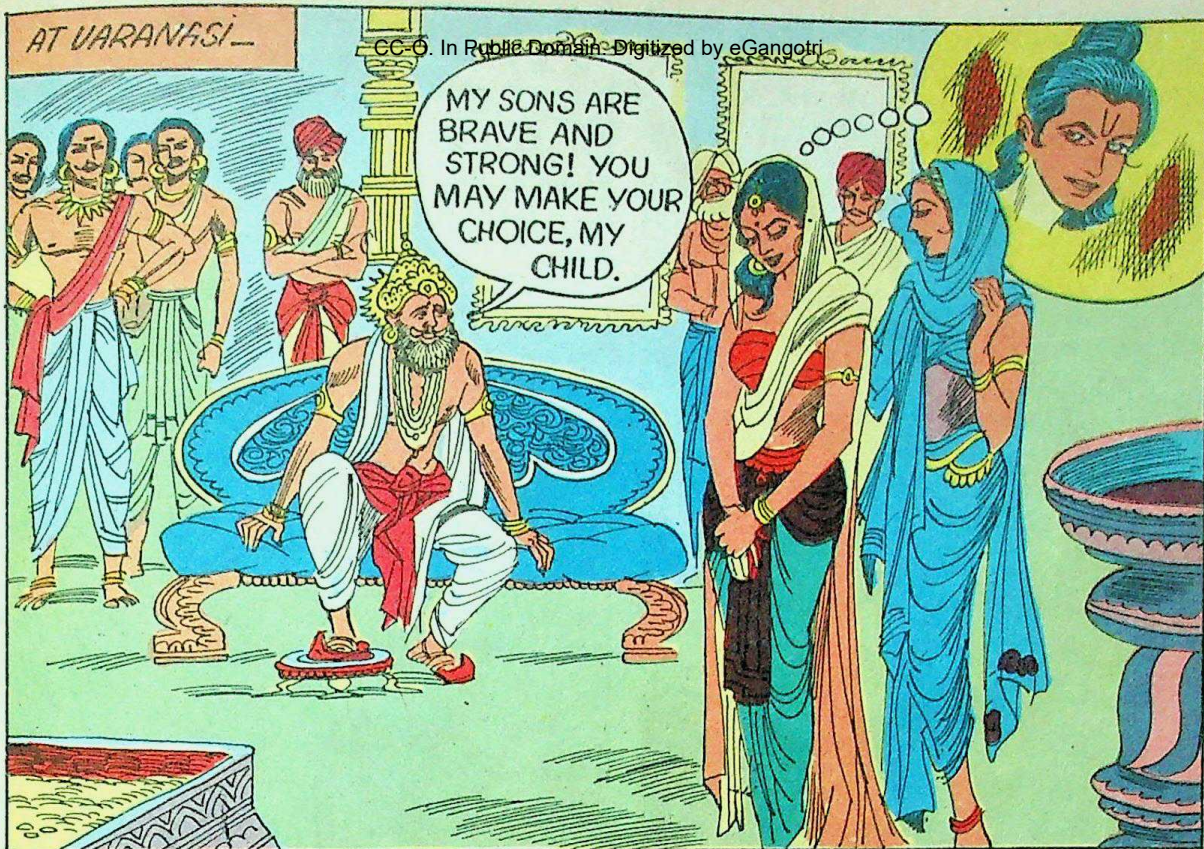


THE FACE WAS IMPRINTED ON HER MEMORY.

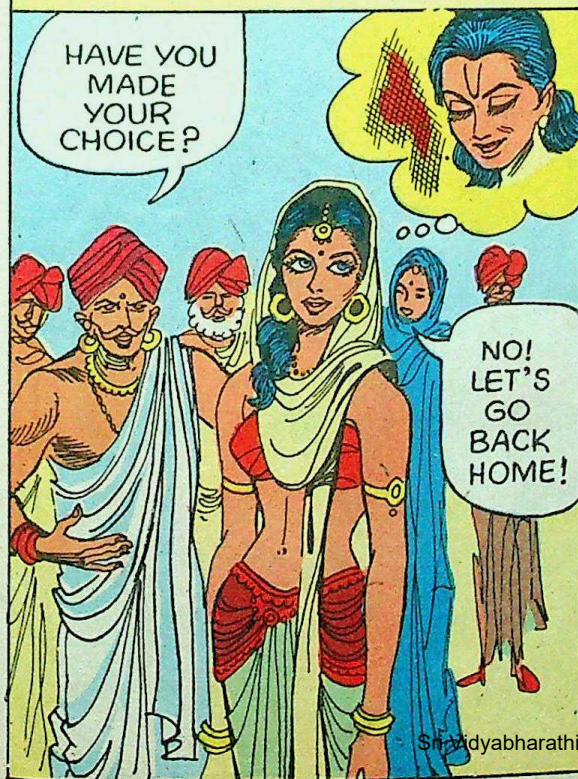


AT VARANASI...

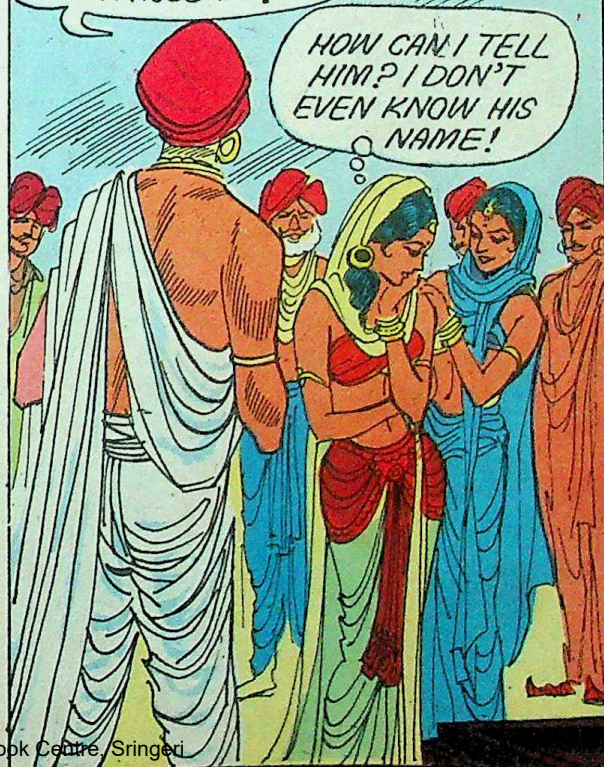
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FOR SAVITRI, A CHANCE MEETING
HAD DIMMED THE REST OF THE WORLD.



WHAT KIND OF A MAN
DO YOU WANT FOR
A HUSBAND?



THE CHARIOT PASSED THROUGH THE FOREST AGAIN. SAVITRI SENSED THAT SHE WOULD MEET HIM AGAIN.



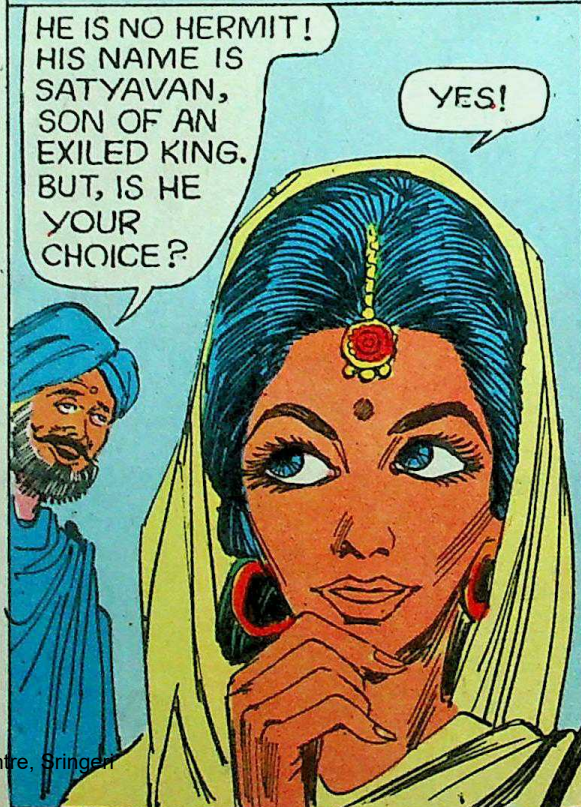
SOON SHE WAS STARTLED BY A WARM YOUTHFUL VOICE...



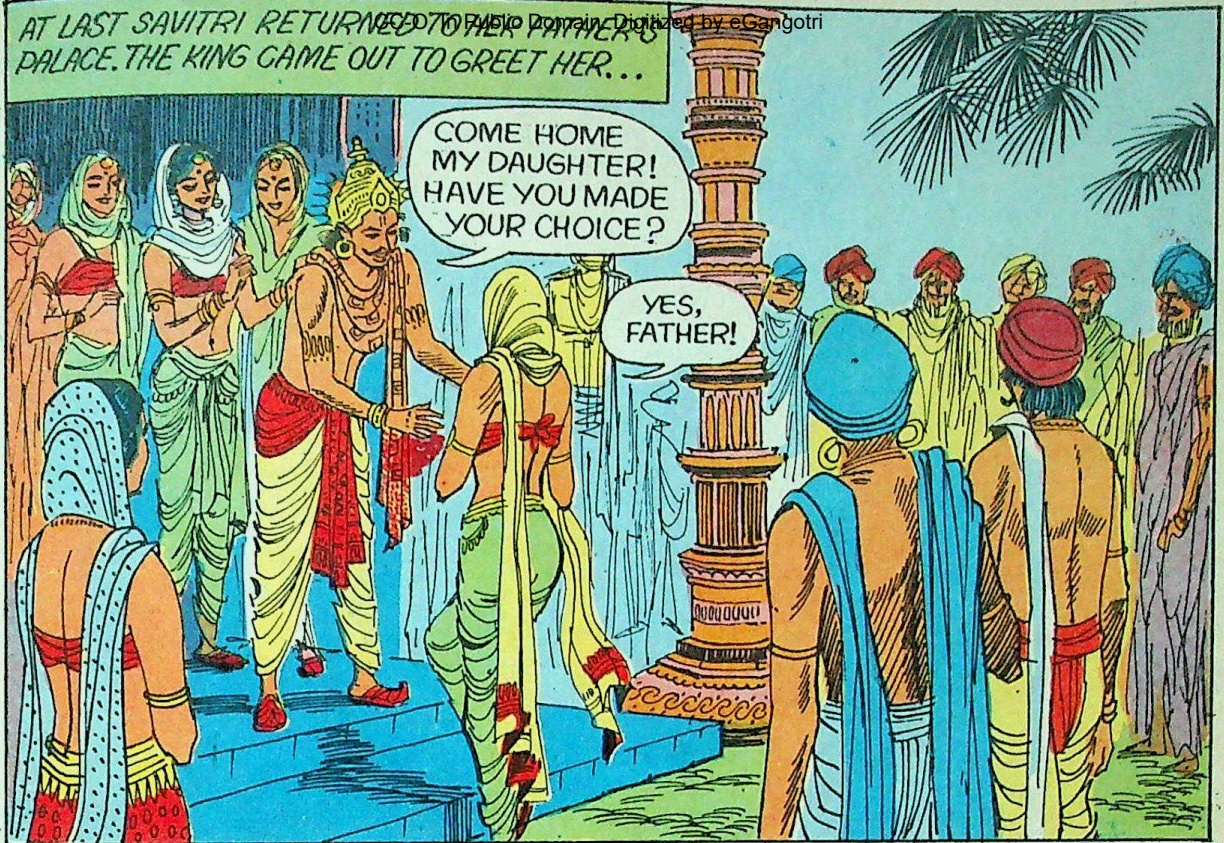
SAVITRI KNEW SHE HAD TO KNOW THE TRUTH! SHE COULD NOT GO AWAY.



SOON THE MINISTER RETURNED.



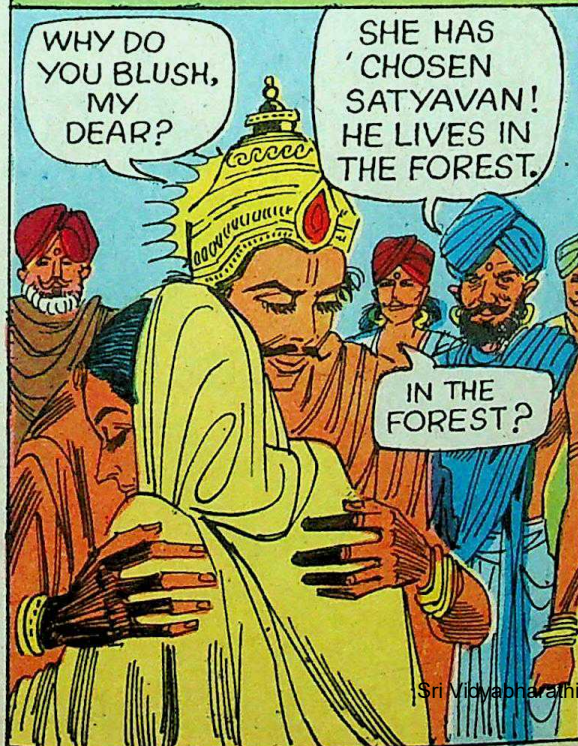
AT LAST SAVITRI RETURNED TO HER FATHER'S PALACE. THE KING CAME OUT TO GREET HER...



COME HOME
MY DAUGHTER!
HAVE YOU MADE
YOUR CHOICE?

YES,
FATHER!

BUT SAVITRI WAS SOON OVERCOME
WITH EMBARRASSMENT...SHE COULD
NOT SPEAK...

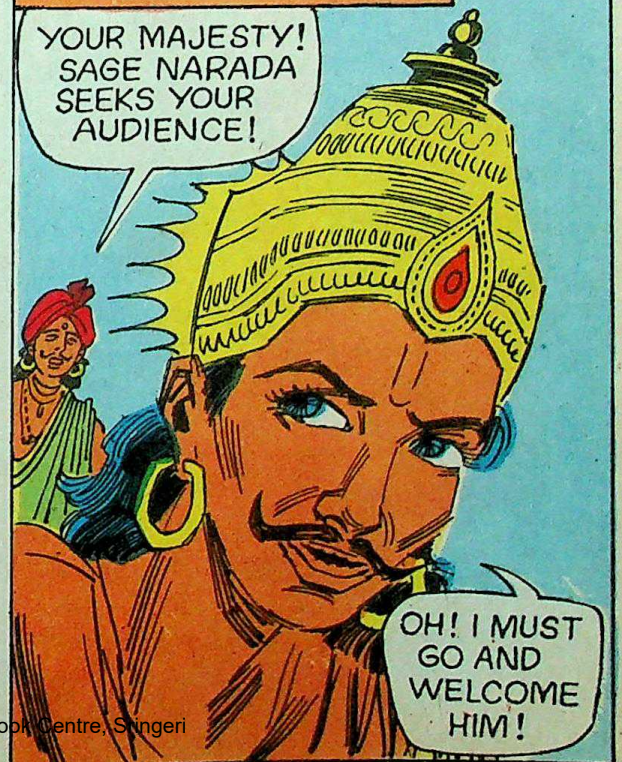


WHY DO
YOU BLUSH,
MY
DEAR?

SHE HAS
'CHOSEN
SATYAVAN!
HE LIVES IN
THE FOREST.

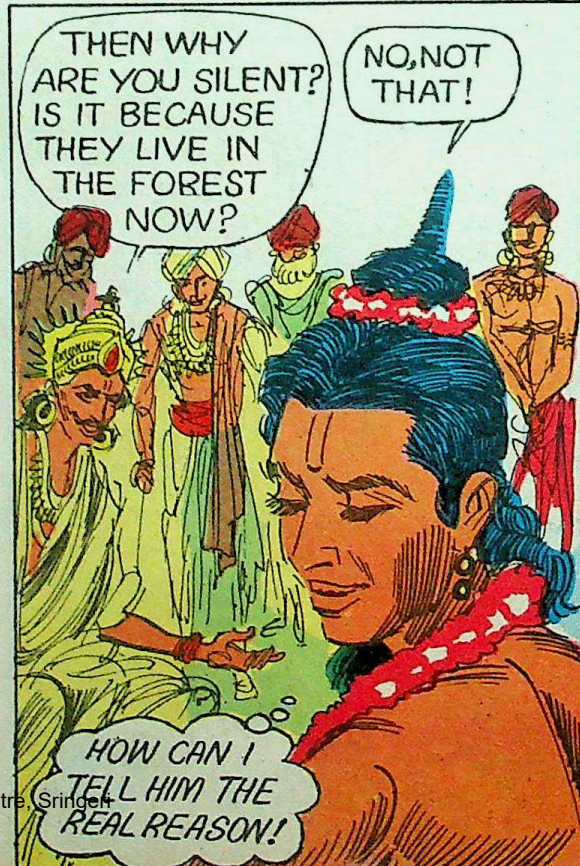
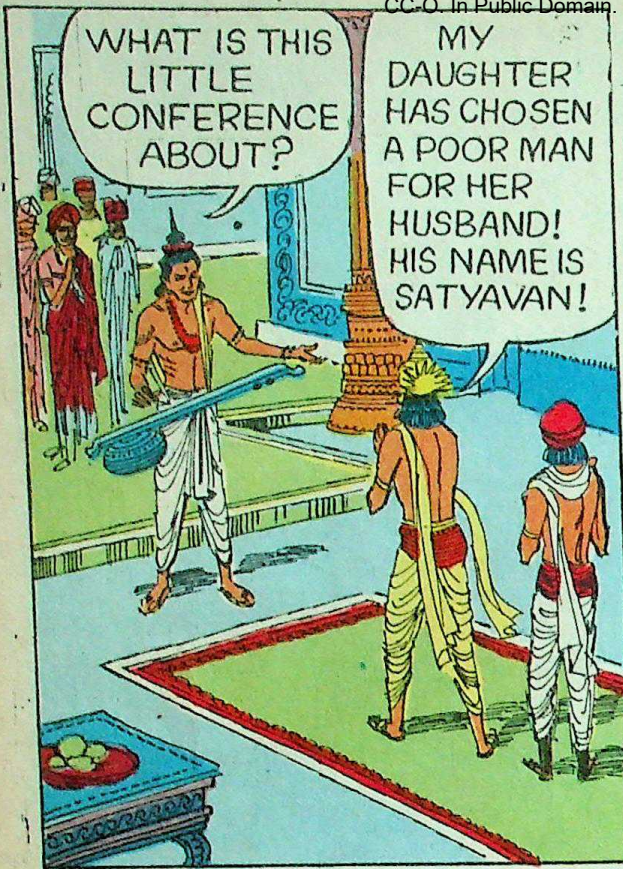
IN THE
FOREST?

...BUT THE CONVERSATION
WAS SOON INTERRUPTED.

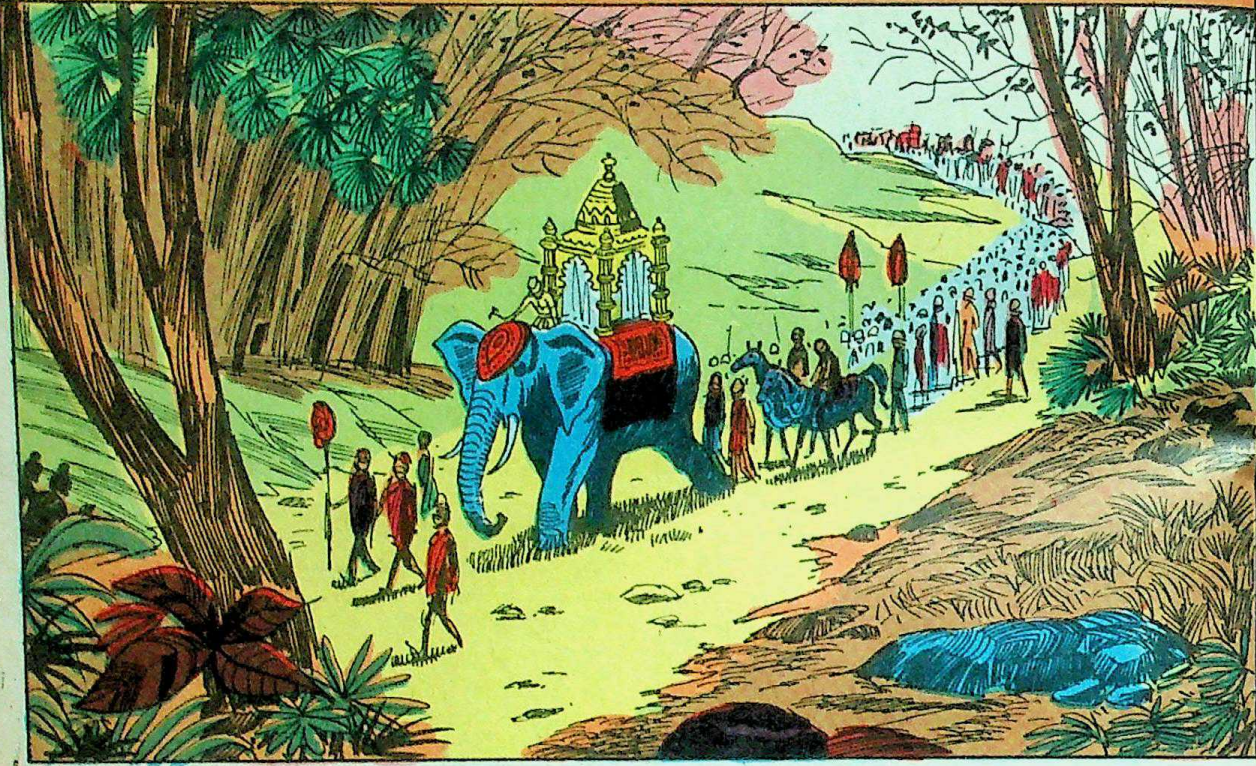


YOUR MAJESTY!
SAGE NARADA
SEEKS YOUR
AUDIENCE!

OH! I MUST
GO AND
WELCOME
HIM!



ONE DAY SOON AFTER, A BRIDAL PROCESSION REACHED THE FOREST...
THE HERMITS CAME FORWARD TO RECEIVE AND WELCOME THEM.



AT FIRST, DYUMATSENA WAS HESITANT.

YOUR CHILD
HAS LIVED IN
WEALTH! HOW
CAN SHE BE
HAPPY HERE?

PLEASE
DO NOT
WORRY! SHE
HAS CHOSEN
SOMETHING
GREATER THAN
WEALTH!



HER FRIENDS DRESSED
SAUTRI BEAUTIFULLY.

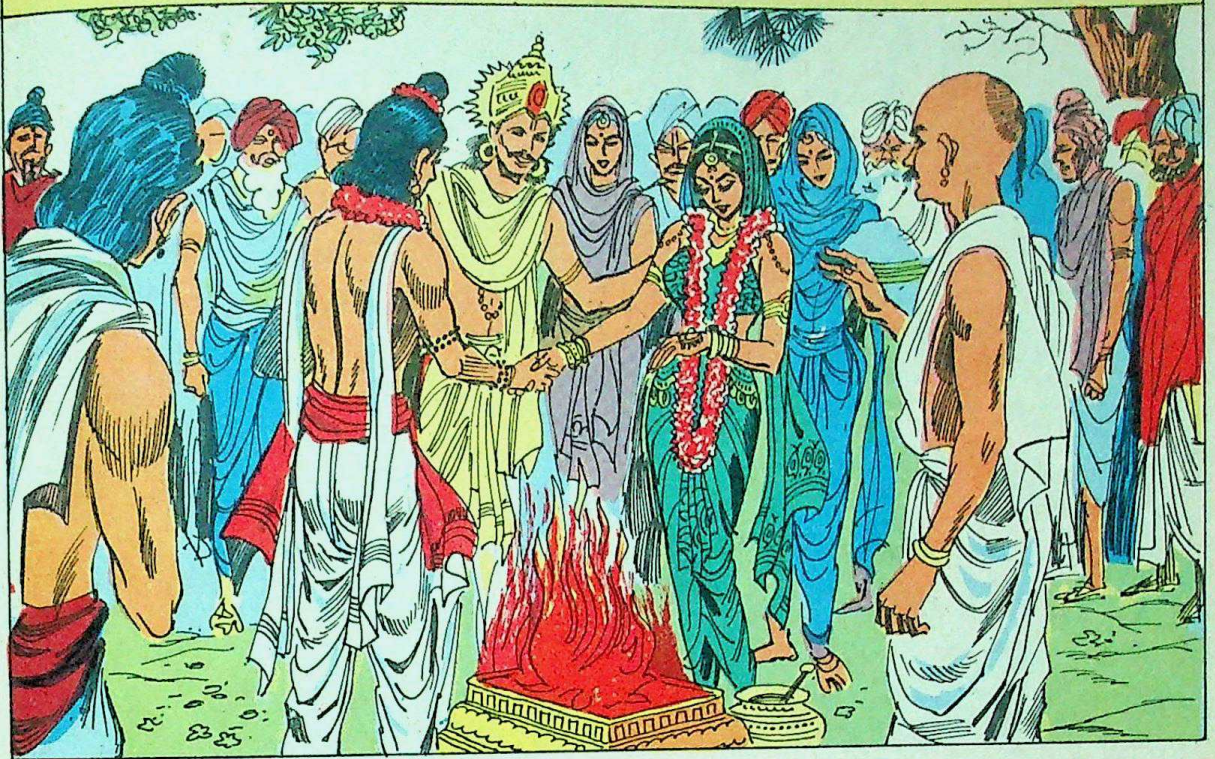
HAVE YOU
SEEN THE
GROOM?
HE IS SO
HANDSOME!

ONLY FOR
ONE YEAR!

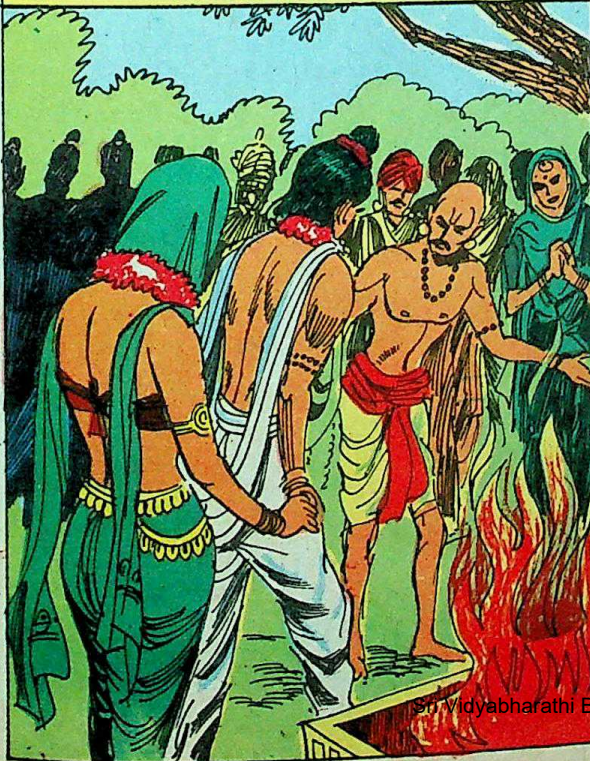
YES!



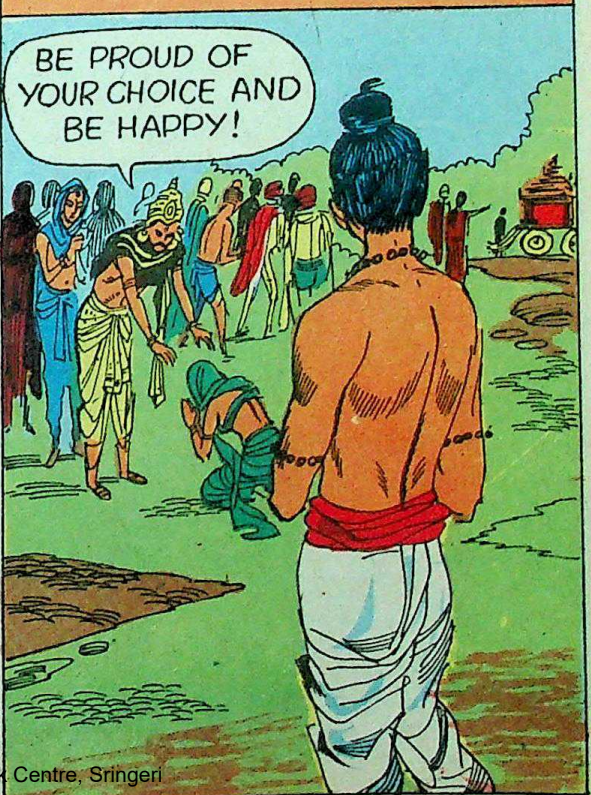
CHANTING THE SACRED MANTRA OF MARRIAGE, ASVAPATI
GAVE AWAY HIS DAUGHTER TO SATYAVAN.



THE BRIDE AND GROOM WALKED
AROUND THE SACRED FIRE SEVEN
TIMES. THEY WERE MARRIED NOW.



THEN IT WAS TIME FOR FAREWELL.



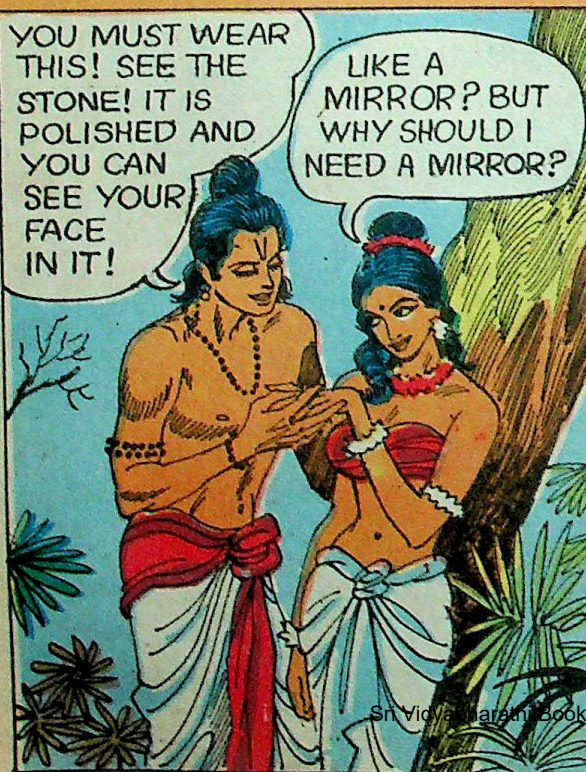
AS SOON AS HER PARENTS LEFT, SAVITRI TOOK OFF ALL HER JEWELS AND CLOTHED HERSELF IN CLOTHES OF BARK.



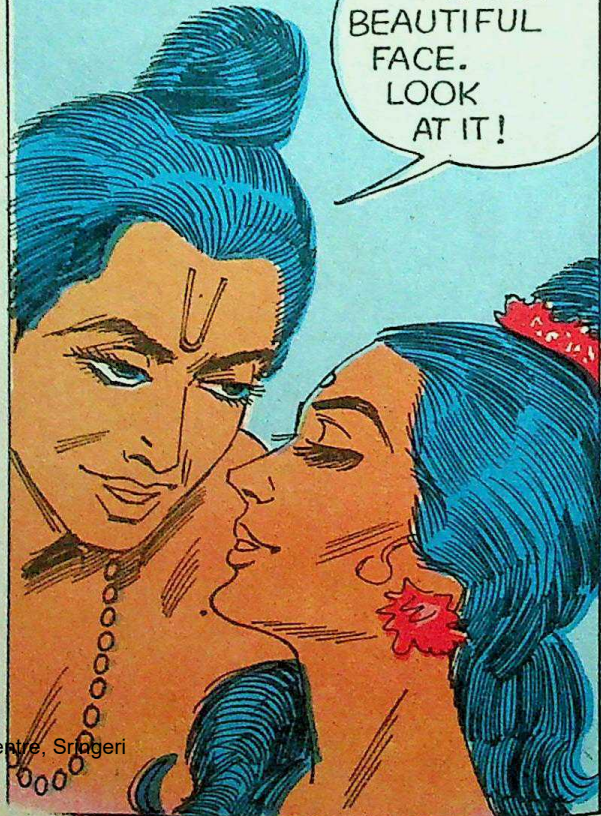
SATYAVAN TOOK OUT A BEAUTIFUL RING HE HAD KEPT FOR HER.

YOU MUST WEAR THIS! SEE THE STONE! IT IS POLISHED AND YOU CAN SEE YOUR FACE IN IT!

LIKE A MIRROR? BUT WHY SHOULD I NEED A MIRROR?



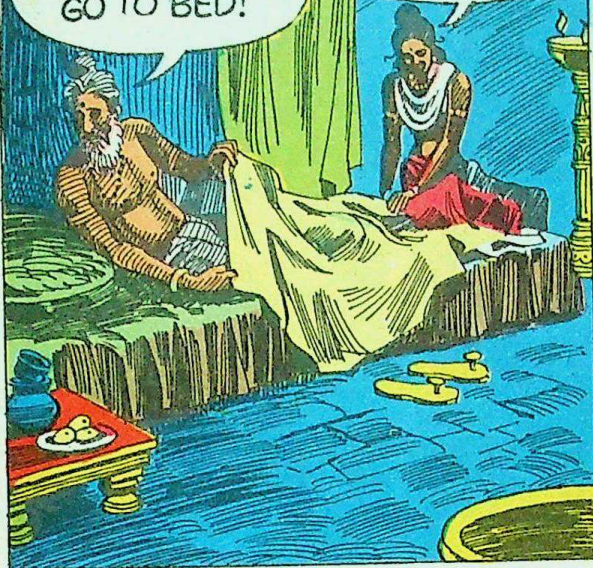
YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL FACE. LOOK AT IT!



SAVITRI WAS EXTREMELY DEVOTED TO HER PARENTS-IN-LAW! SHE LOOKED AFTER THEM LIKE A DUTIFUL DAUGHTER.

IT'S LATE, MY CHILD! YOU MUST GO TO BED!

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO?

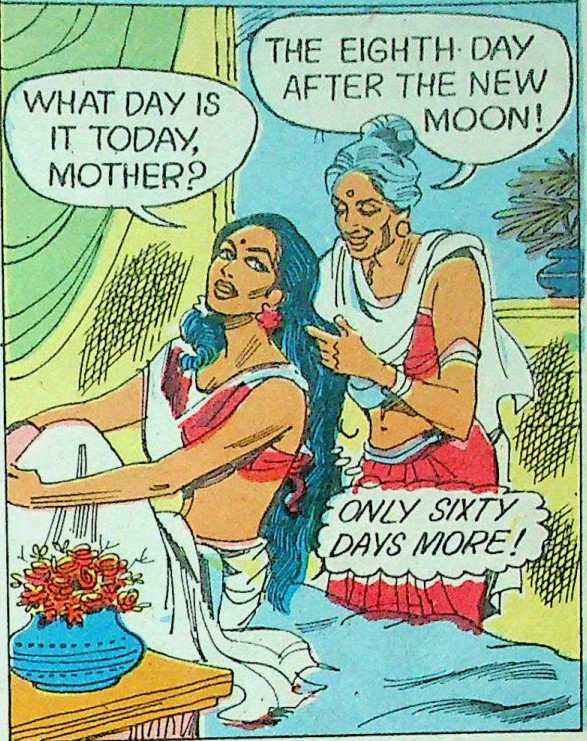


AS THE DAYS PASSED, A SECRET AGONY GREW WITHIN HER HEART.

WHAT DAY IS IT TODAY, MOTHER?

THE EIGHTH DAY AFTER THE NEW MOON!

ONLY SIXTY DAYS MORE!



AT LAST, THE YEAR WENT BY. THREE DAYS BEFORE THE FATEFUL DAY, SAVITRI BEGAN FASTING.

BUT, MY CHILD! THIS IS TOO HARD A PENANCE!

PLEASE DO NOT WORRY, FATHER! I CAN DO IT!



ON THE LAST NIGHT SHE COULD NOT SLEEP. ONLY ONE THOUGHT KEPT ON HAUNTING HER.

TOMORROW MY HUSBAND IS FATED TO DIE! WHAT SHALL I DO?



IN THE MORNING...

PLEASE LET
ME GO WITH
YOU TODAY.

WHY
SAVITRI?

I JUST WANT
TO GO!

ALL
RIGHT,
COME
WITH
ME!

HER SMILING FACE
HID THE AGONY IN
HER HEART. SATYAVAN
WAS HAPPY...

BUT YOU MUST
WEAR YOUR
ANKLETS!
I WANT TO
HEAR YOUR
FOOTSTEPS!

IN THE FOREST, SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FULL OF ANGUISH.

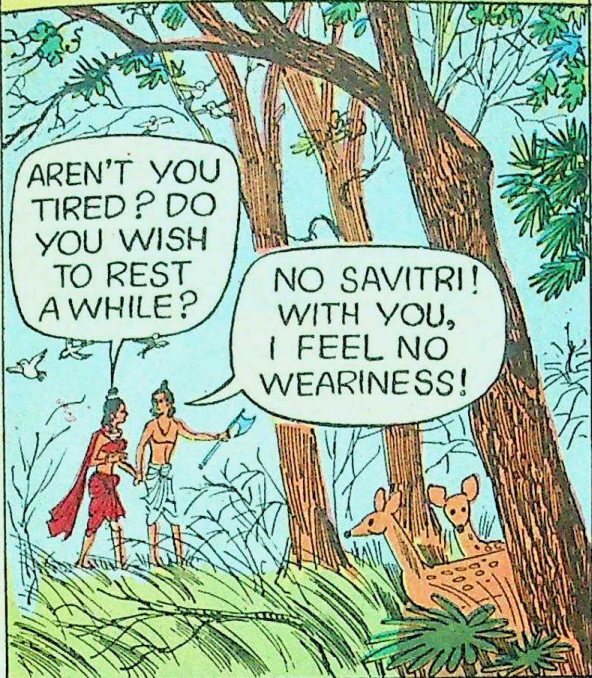
THE WORLD
IS BEAUTIFUL!
BUT LIFE IS
TOO SHORT TO
APPRECIATE
EVERYTHING!

SAVITRI!
WHY DO
YOU HAVE
SUCH SAD
THOUGHTS?

EVERY SECOND, HER HEART BEATS BECAME LOUDER! EVERY BLADE OF GRASS SMELLED OF LURKING DEATH.

AREN'T YOU TIRED? DO YOU WISH TO REST A WHILE?

NO SAVITRI! WITH YOU, I FEEL NO WEARINESS!



WILL YOU PLUCK SOME FRUIT? I HAVE TO CUT BRANCHES FOR FIREWOOD!

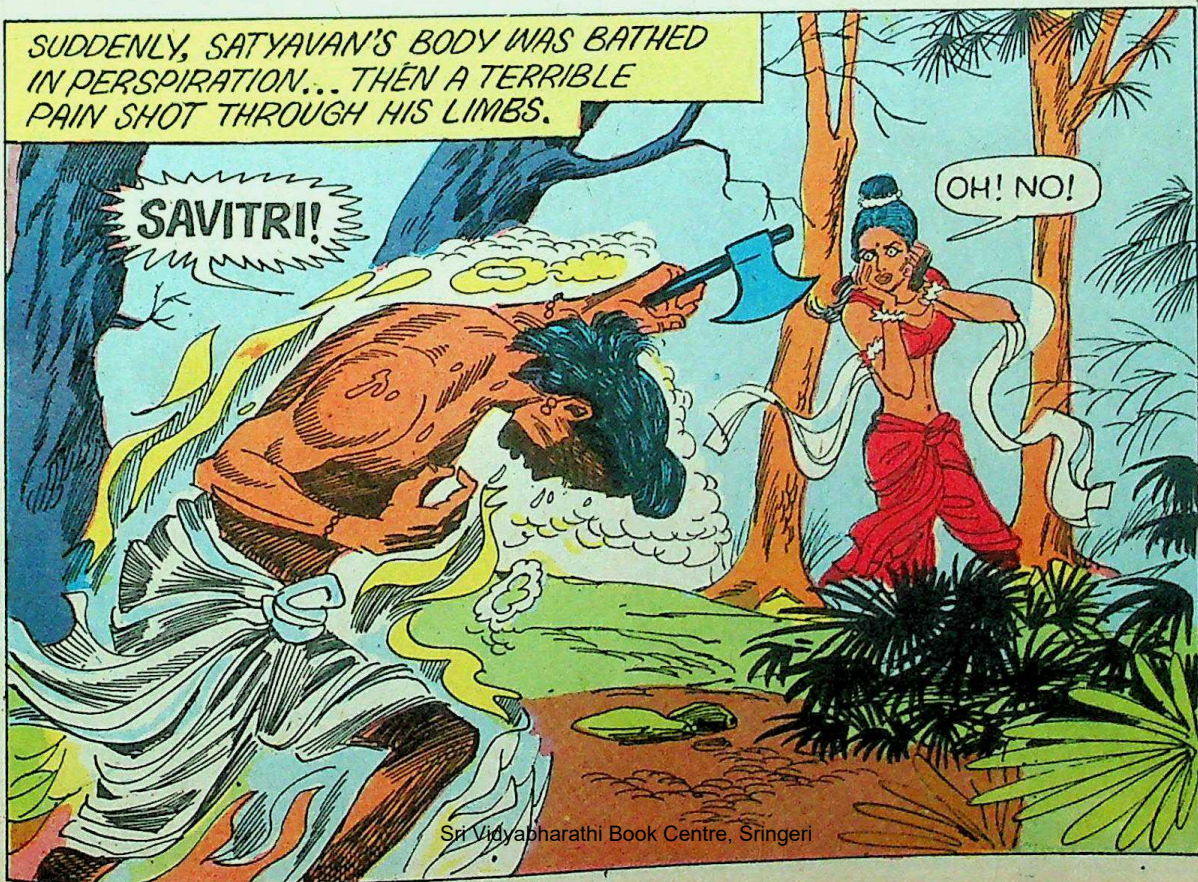
YES, I WILL!



SUDDENLY, SATYAVAN'S BODY WAS BATHED IN PERSPIRATION... THEN A TERRIBLE PAIN SHOT THROUGH HIS LIMBS.

SAVITRI!

OH! NO!



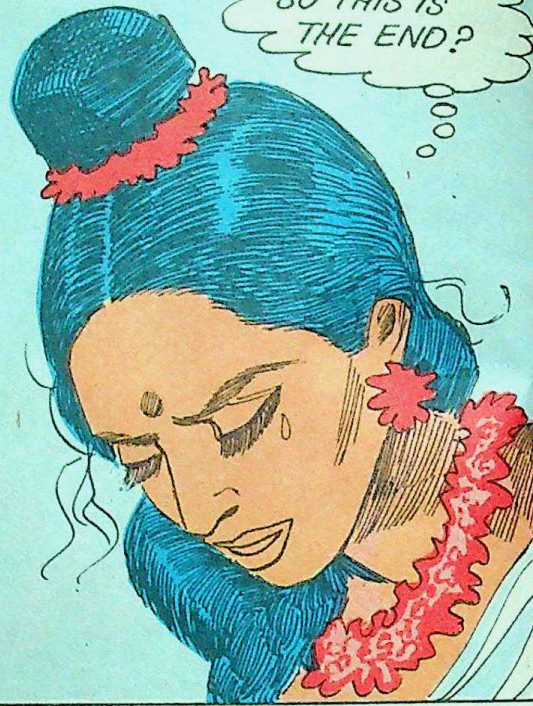
SAVITRI RAN TOWARDS HER HUSBAND...

SAVITRI, MY LIMBS ARE LOSING ALL SENSATION! LET ME SLEEP FOR A WHILE!



SOON, SATYAVAN'S BODY BECAME STILL.

SO THIS IS THE END?



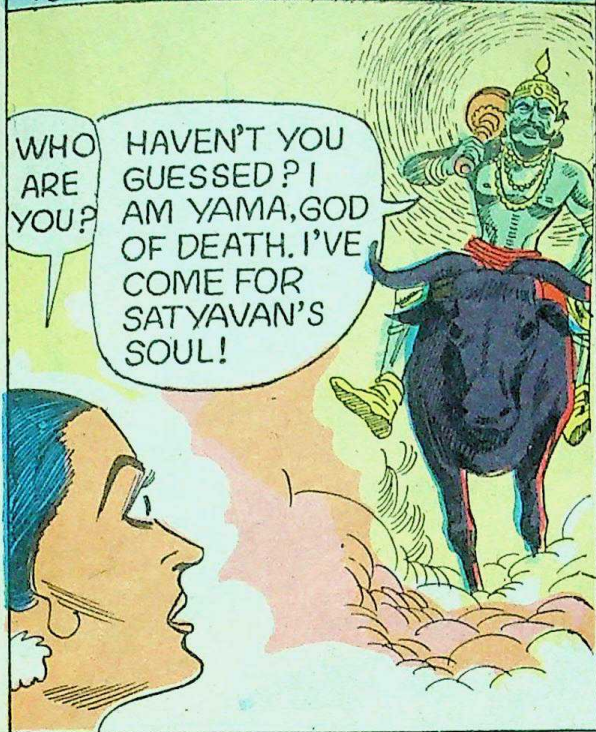
THE FOREST AROUND HER HAD DARKENED... A HEAVY STILLNESS FILLED THE AIR... SAVITRI LIFTED HER HEAD AND SAW A DARK FIGURE CLAD IN RED, A CROWN SHINING ON HIS HEAD.



SAVITRI WAS TROUBLED, BUT SHE FELT NO FEAR. SHE WANTED TO SPEAK TO HIM...

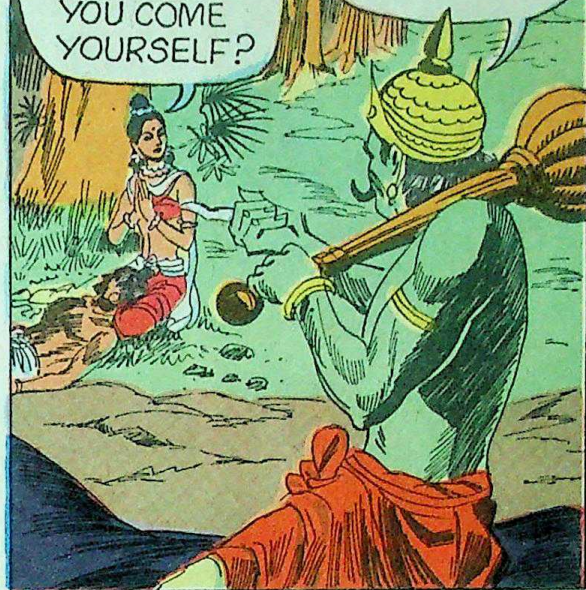
WHO ARE YOU?

HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED? I AM YAMA, GOD OF DEATH. I'VE COME FOR SATYAVAN'S SOUL!



MY LORD! I'VE HEARD, YOUR ASSISTANTS DO THIS JOB. WHY HAVE YOU COME YOURSELF?

SATYAVAN WAS NO ORDINARY PERSON. HE WAS PURE. THAT'S WHY I HAVE COME!



YAMA TOOK OUT A SMALL NOOSE. HE SLIPPED IT AROUND SATYAVAN'S BODY AND STARTED BACK.



SAVITRI SAW THAT SATYAVAN'S FACE HAD ASSUMED THE STILLNESS OF A CORPSE.

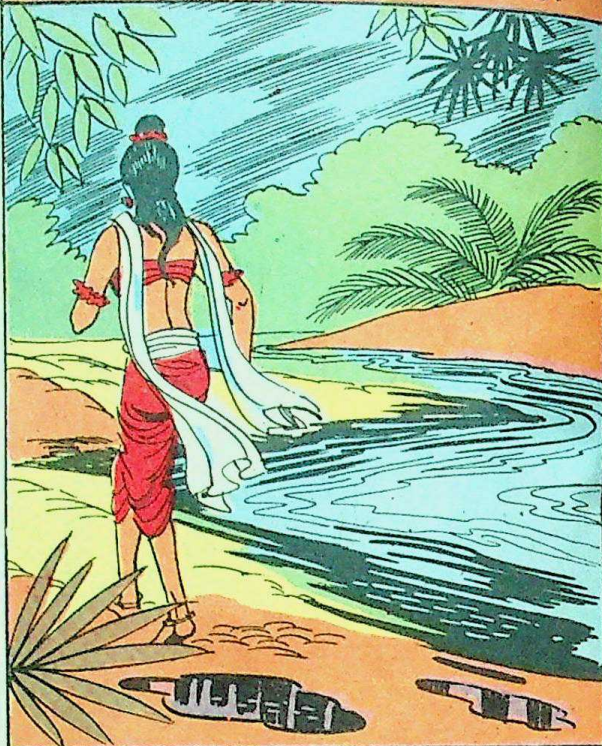
MY BELOVED HUSBAND IS DEAD! I HAVE NOTHING LEFT NOW IN LIFE! LET ME FOLLOW LORD YAMA!



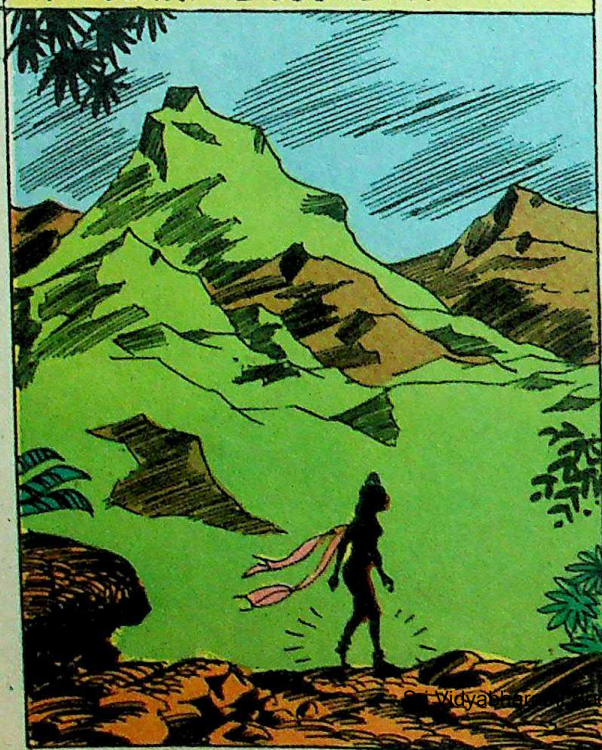
SAVITRI FOLLOWED YAMA FROM
A DISTANCE! THE TALL SOFT
GRASS OF THE FOREST MUFFLED
THE SOUND OF HER ANKLETS.



SOON THEY CAME UPON A STREAM.
HERE TOO THE WATER SOFTENED
THE SOUND OF HER FOOTSTEPS.

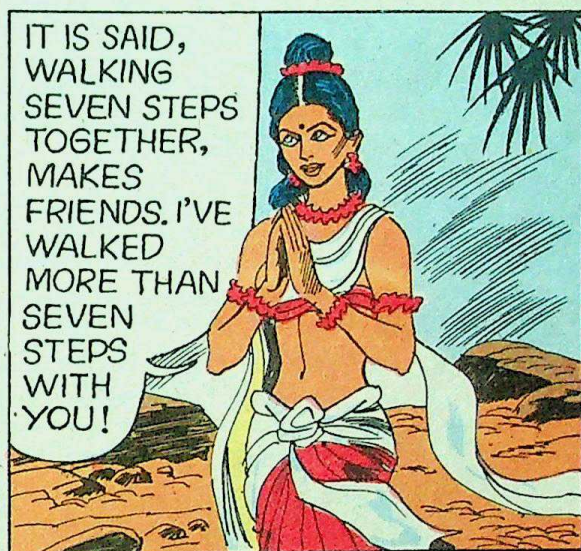
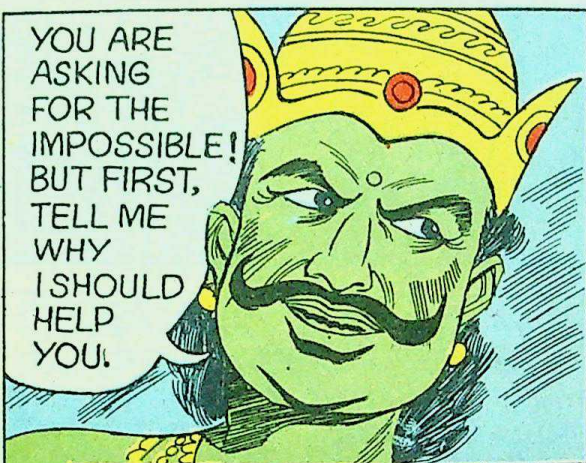


ON THE HARD GROUND, HER
ANKLETS FILLED THE AIR WITH
A MOURNFUL SOUND...



...WHICH SOON REACHED YAMA'S
EARS! THE GOD OF DEATH PAUSED
TO LISTEN TO THE STRANGE SOUND.



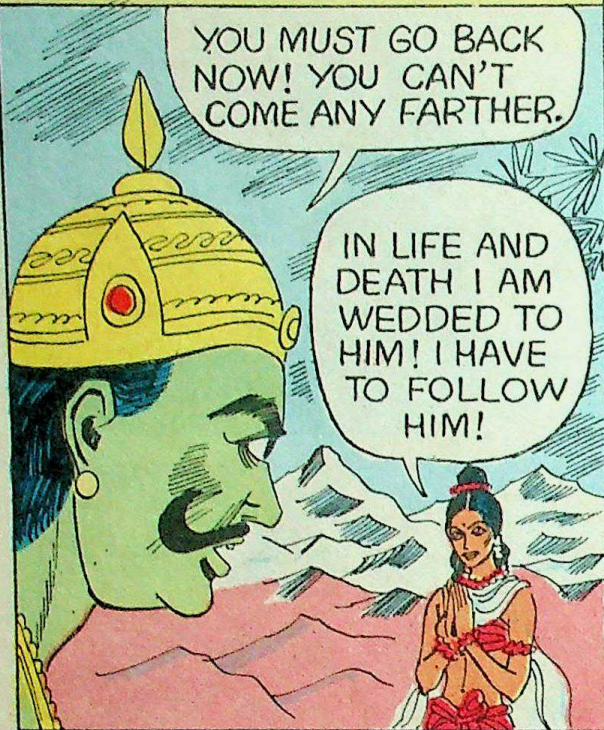


THERE WAS A TWINKLE OF AMUSEMENT IN YAMA'S EYES!

EVEN THE GOD OF DEATH WAS THRILLED WITH SAVITRI'S REPLY.



**YAMA WAS ASTONISHED
THAT SAVITRI DID NOT ASK
ANYTHING FOR HERSELF.**

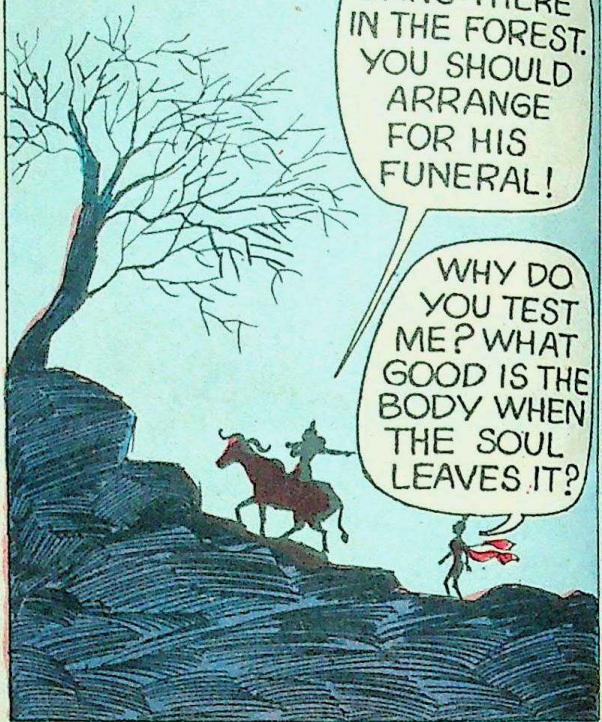


YOU MUST GO BACK
NOW! YOU CAN'T
COME ANY FARTHER.

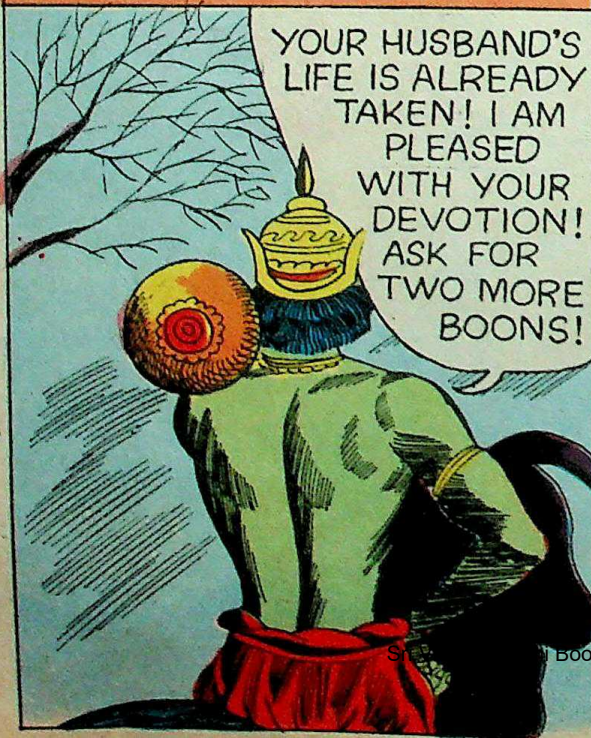
IN LIFE AND
DEATH I AM
WEDDED TO
HIM! I HAVE
TO FOLLOW
HIM!

BUT HE IS
LYING THERE
IN THE FOREST.
YOU SHOULD
ARRANGE
FOR HIS
FUNERAL!

WHY DO
YOU TEST
ME? WHAT
GOOD IS THE
BODY WHEN
THE SOUL
LEAVES IT?

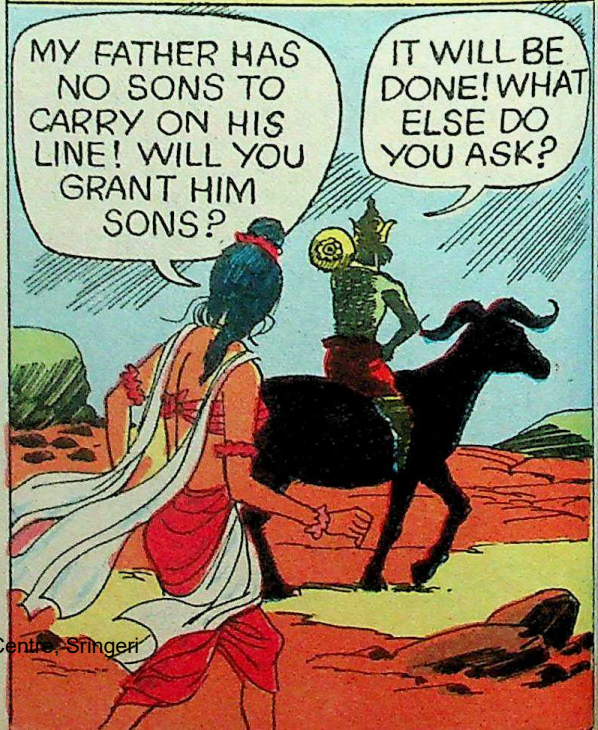


**SAVITRI'S WORDS FILLED THE AIR
LIKE SOLEMN MUSIC. EVEN YAMA'S
STEPS HAD SLOWED DOWN.**



YOUR HUSBAND'S
LIFE IS ALREADY
TAKEN! I AM
PLEASED
WITH YOUR
DEVOTION!
ASK FOR
TWO MORE
BOONS!

**SAVITRI KNEW SHE COULD NOT ASK
FOR SATYAVAN'S LIFE DIRECTLY!
BUT SHE FOUND A WAY!**

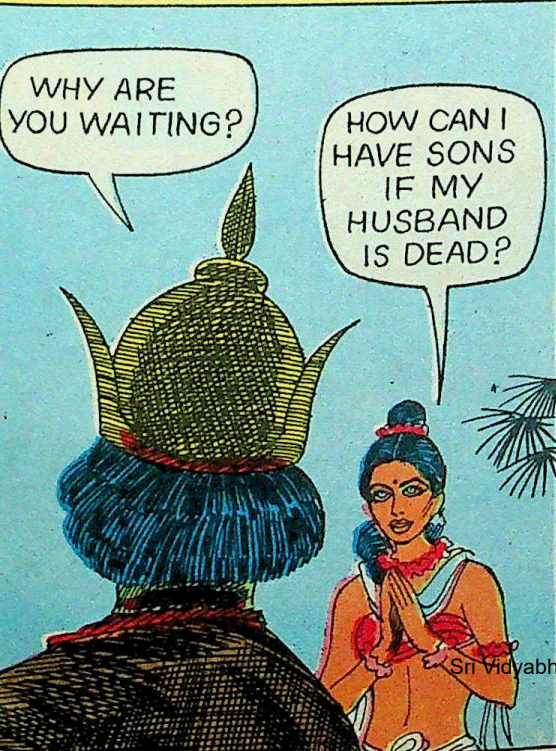


MY FATHER HAS
NO SONS TO
CARRY ON HIS
LINE! WILL YOU
GRANT HIM
SONS?

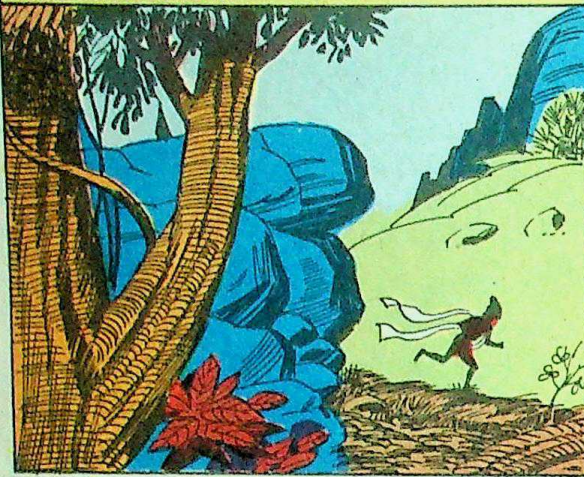
IT WILL BE
DONE! WHAT
ELSE DO
YOU ASK?



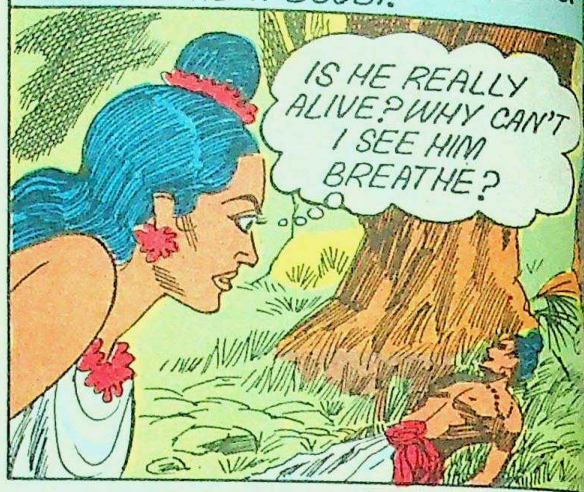
YAMA STARTED TO GO! AFTER A FEW STEPS HE TURNED TO HAVE A LAST GLIMPSE OF SAVITRI.



IN GREAT JOY, SAVITRI RAN BACK TO WHERE SATYAVAN LAY IN THE FOREST.



HE WAS LYING THERE AS SHE HAD LEFT HIM, STILL, MOTIONLESS. SAVITRI HAD A DOUBT.



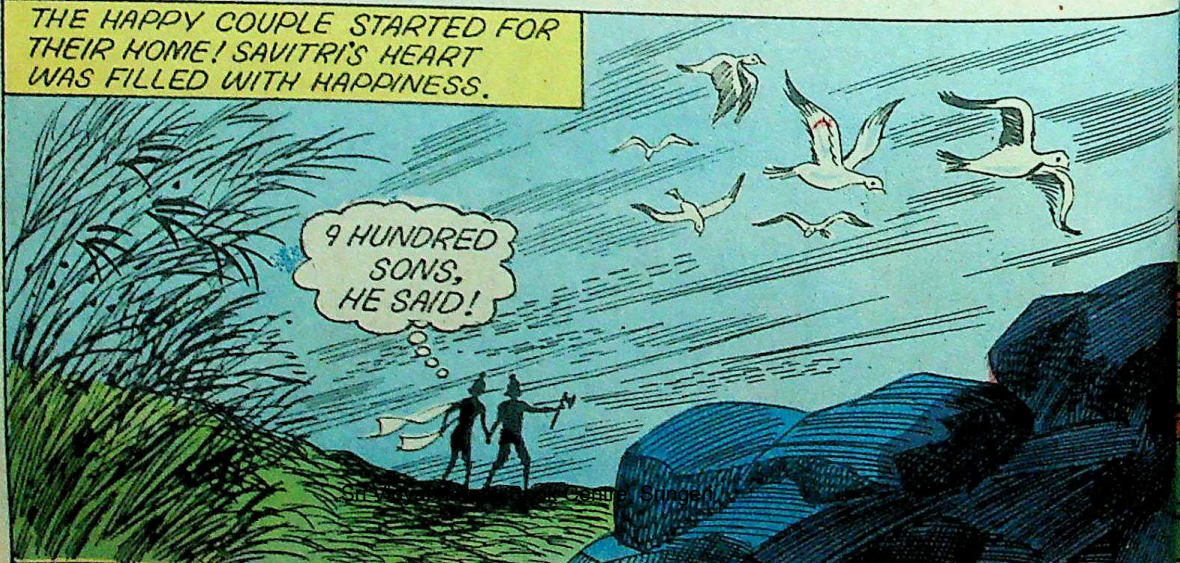
SAVITRI KNEW THAT A POLISHED STONE BECOMES MISTY WITH A MAN'S BREATH. SHE TOOK OFF HER RING AND HELD IT NEAR HIS NOSE.



SATYAVAN SOON OPENED HIS EYES.



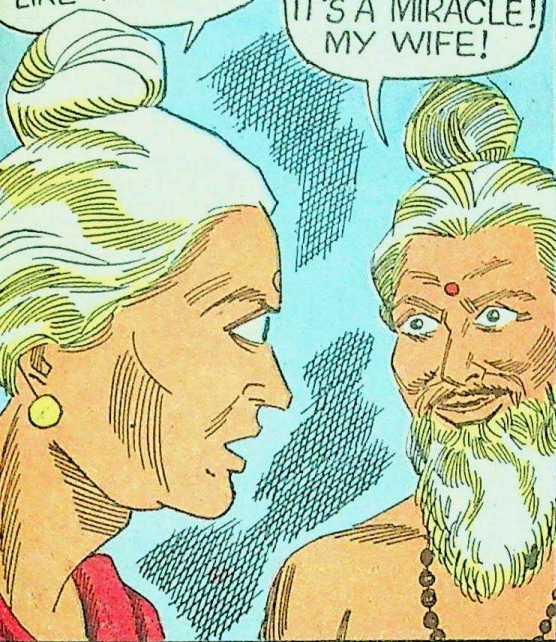
THE HAPPY COUPLE STARTED FOR THEIR HOME! SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS.



MEANWHILE... DYUMATSENA
HAD GOT BACK HIS SIGHT.

WHY ARE YOU
LOOKING AT ME
LIKE THAT ?

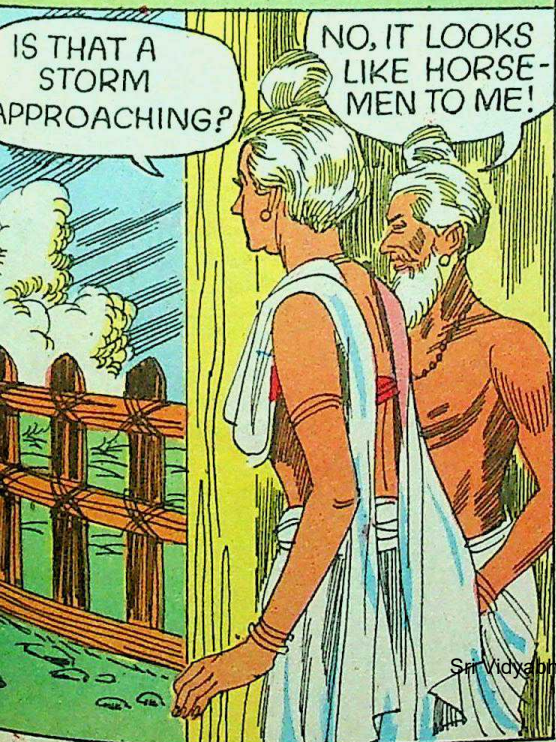
BECAUSE I
CAN SEE YOU!
IT'S A MIRACLE!
MY WIFE!



AS THE WORRIED DYUMATSENA
STEPPED OUTSIDE, HE SAW A STORM
CLOUD AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST.

IS THAT A
STORM
APPROACHING?

NO, IT LOOKS
LIKE HORSE-
MEN TO ME!



BUT WHERE IS MY
SON, SATYAVAN ?
WHERE IS SAVITRI ?
THEY SHOULD HAVE
COME BACK
BY NOW.

THE HORSEMEN SOON ARRIVED!
DYUMATSENA RECOGNISED THEM.
THEY CAME FROM HIS LOST KINGDOM.

YOUR MAJESTY!
THE ENEMIES HAVE
BEEN DEFEATED!
WE HAVE COME TO
TAKE YOU BACK.

ANOTHER
MIRACLE!



THE SEARCHERS DID NOT HAVE
TO GO VERY FAR.

BUT WE MUST
LOOK FOR MY SON
AND HIS WIFE!

LET'S
SPREAD OUT
IN THE
FOREST.

SATYAVAN!
SAVITRI! YOU
HAVE COME
AT LAST!

FATHER!
WHAT DOES
THIS MEAN?

SAVITRI! YOU CAME
TO A POOR HOME!
NOW YOU SHALL
SIT ON A THRONE!
AND YOUR SONS
WILL BE
PRINCES!

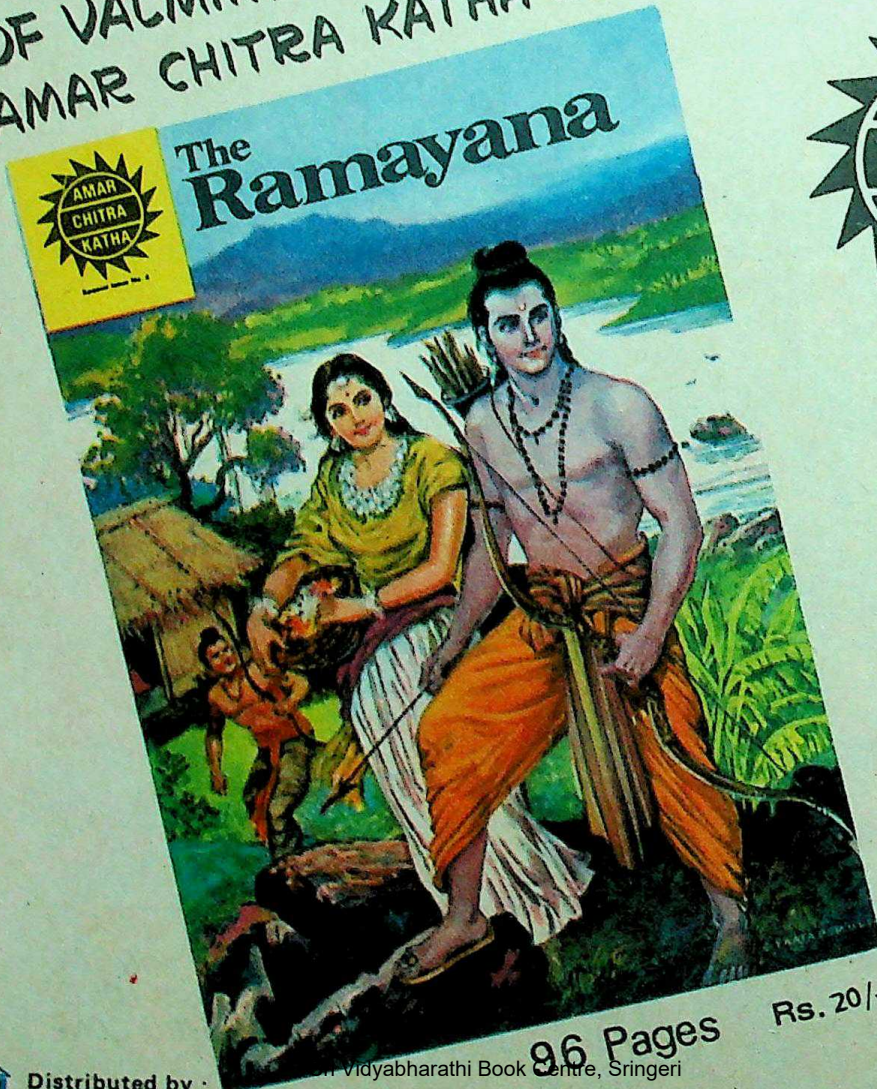
JUST AS LORD
YAMA SAID!

THE EXILES STARTED FOR THEIR KINGDOM.
IT WAS A JOYOUS JOURNEY FOR ALL.



VALMIKI'S RAMAYANA IS BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST POETIC WORK WRITTEN IN SANSKRIT; IT IS, THEREFORE, REFERRED TO AS THE ADIKAVYA. IT IS SAID THAT BRAHMA ASSURED VALMIKI THAT "AS LONG AS THE MOUNTAINS STAND AND THE RIVERS FLOW, SO LONG SHALL THE RAMAYANA BE READ BY MEN."

THE IMMORTAL EPIC
OF VALMIKI NOW IN THE
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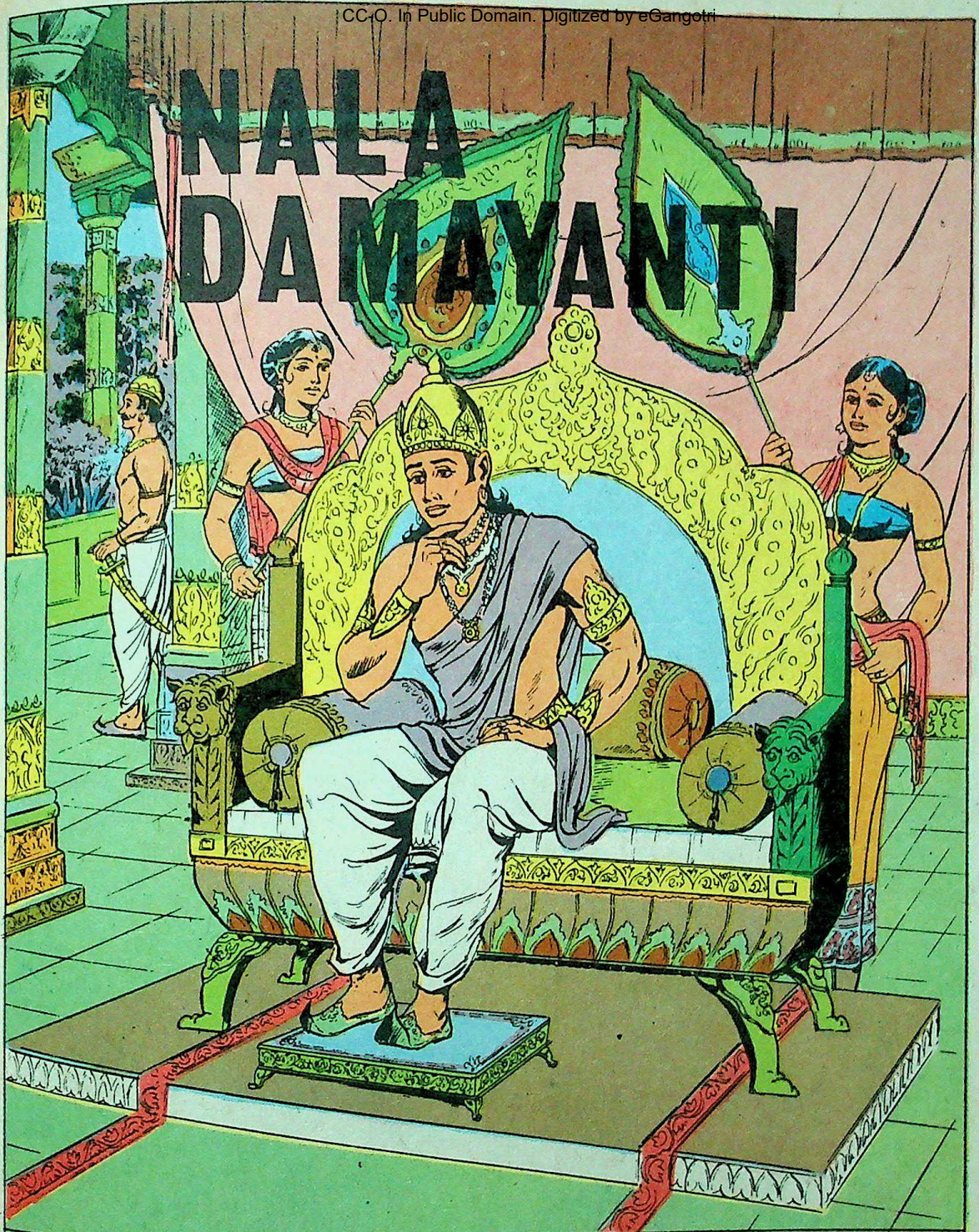


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NALA DAMAYANTI



THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, NALA RULED OVER THE KINGDOM OF NISHADA. HE WAS GENEROUS AND NOBLE AND WAS LOVED BY HIS SUBJECTS. BUT HE WAS ALWAYS SAD. HIS FATHER HAD GONE TO A FOREST TO SPEND THE LAST YEARS OF HIS LIFE.

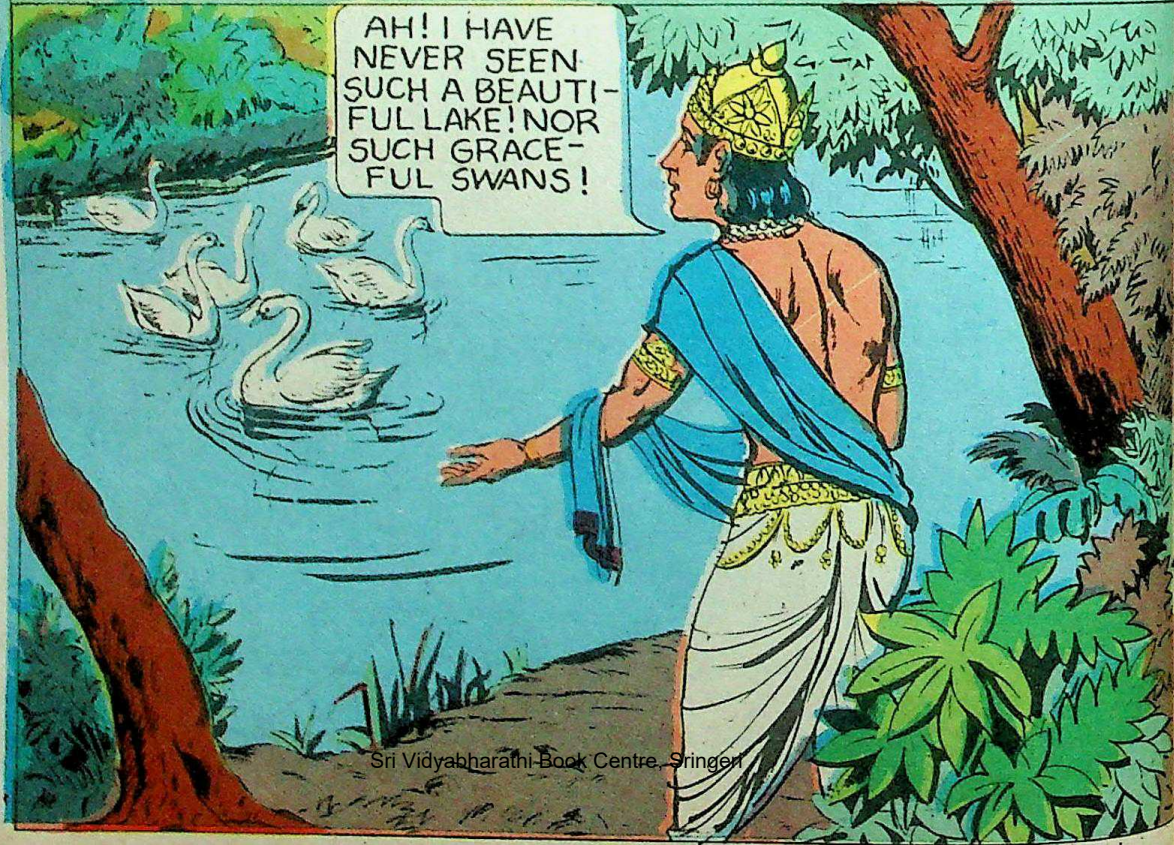
NALA'S COUSIN, PUSHKARA, ENVIED HIM HIS FAME.

NALA! I AM TIRED OF
THE PEOPLE HERE
AND HAVE DECIDED
TO LEAVE.



NALA WAS LONELY AND WANDERED FROM PLACE TO PLACE. ONE DAY—

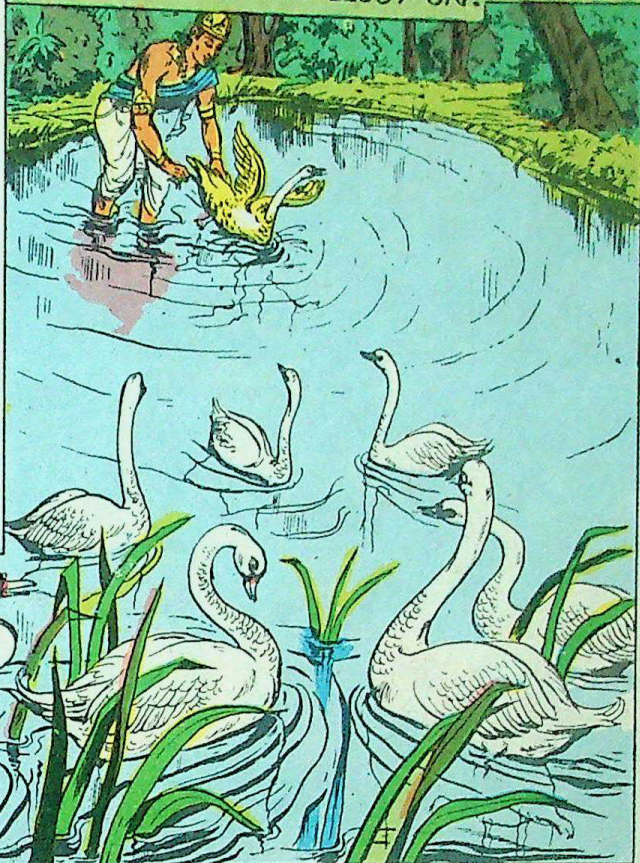
AH! I HAVE
NEVER SEEN
SUCH A BEAUTI-
FUL LAKE! NOR
SUCH GRACE-
FUL SWANS!



WHY! THAT
DAINTY SWAN
HAS GOLDEN
PLUMES!

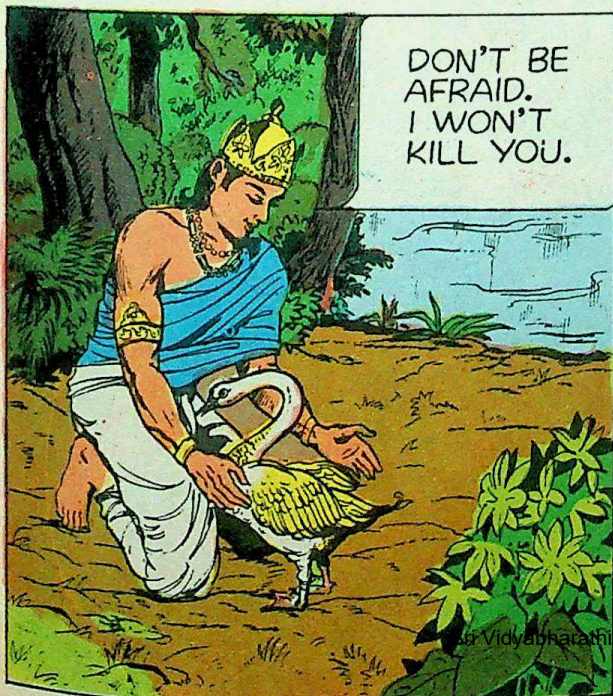
HE CAUGHT THE SWAN BY ITS LEG. THE
BIRD CRIED OUT IN PAIN. THE OTHER
SWANS LOOKED HELPLESS ON.

SLOWLY AND SOFTLY HE
CREPT FORWARD.



DON'T BE
AFRAID.
I WON'T
KILL YOU.

I SHALL KEEP
YOU IN MY
PALACE AND
GIVE YOU
PEARLS.



THE SWAN CONSOLED HIS WAILING
MATES.

I HAVE TO GO WITH
THE KING TO KEEP
A PROMISE I
MADE IN MY LAST
BIRTH. I SHALL
RETURN THE
MOMENT MY
WORK IS
DONE.

NALA BROUGHT
THE SWAN TO
HIS PALACE.
ONE DAY -

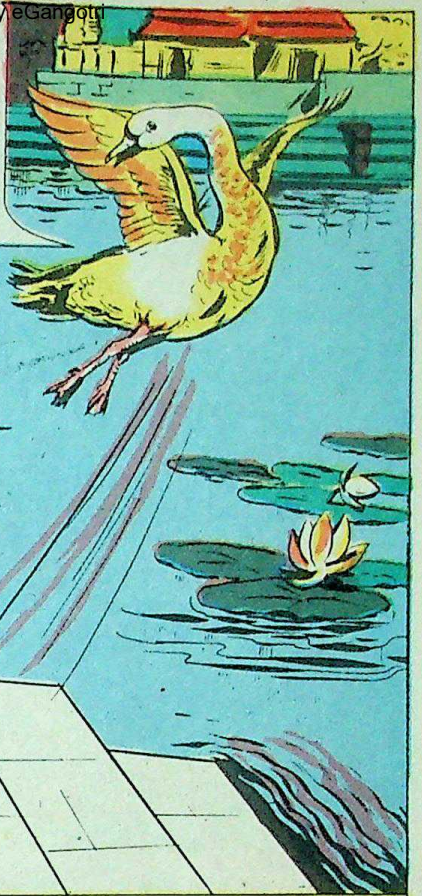
WHY ARE
YOU
WEEPING,
O KING?

I HAVE
BEEN AN
UNHAPPY
MAN FOR
MANY MONTHS.

ONCE NARADA SPOKE TO
ME ABOUT DAMAYANTI,
THE CHARMING
DAUGHTER OF KING
BHEEMA OF KUNDANPUR.
AND I DECIDED THEN
AND THERE TO MARRY
HER AND NO ONE ELSE.

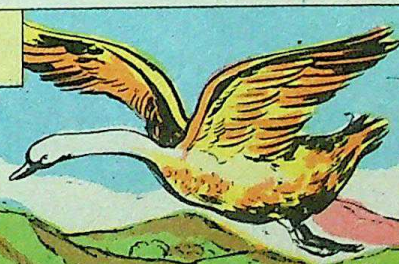
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IS THAT ALL THAT
TROUBLES YOU? MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE WEDDING AND
LEAVE THE REST TO
ME. I'LL RETURN IN
A WEEK.

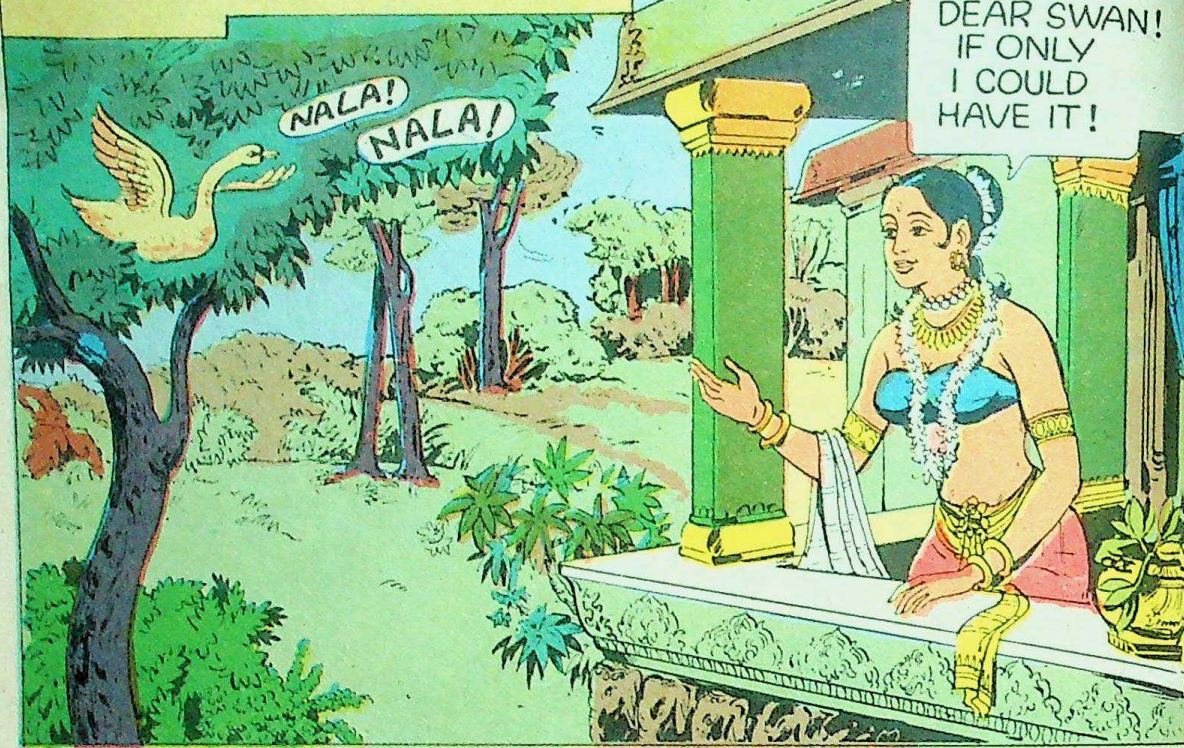


THE SWAN FLEW AWAY
INTO THE SKY...

... AND REACHED THE
KINGDOM OF KUNDANPUR.



ENTERING THE ROYAL GARDEN,
IT BEGAN CHANTING NALA'S NAME.
DAMAYANTI LOOKED UP.



AS DAMAYANTI WENT FORWARD TO
CATCH THE SWAN, IT MOVED
FARTHER AWAY.



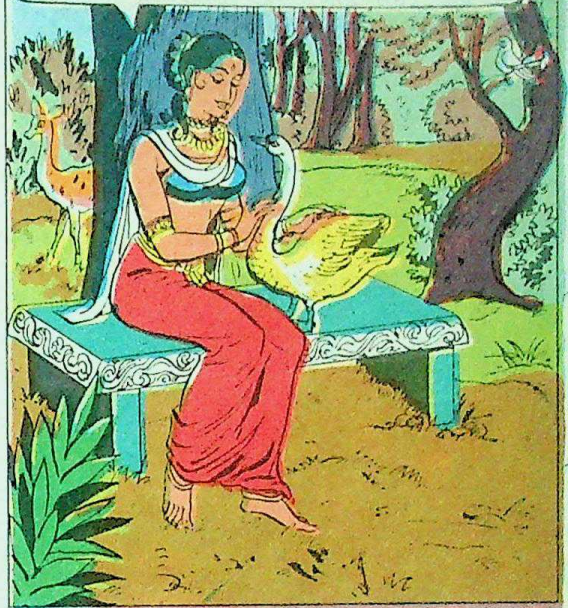
AT LAST, WITH A SWIFT
MOVEMENT, SHE CAUGHT IT.

YOU'VE BEEN
REPEATING
THE NAME
'NALA.'
WHO IS HE?



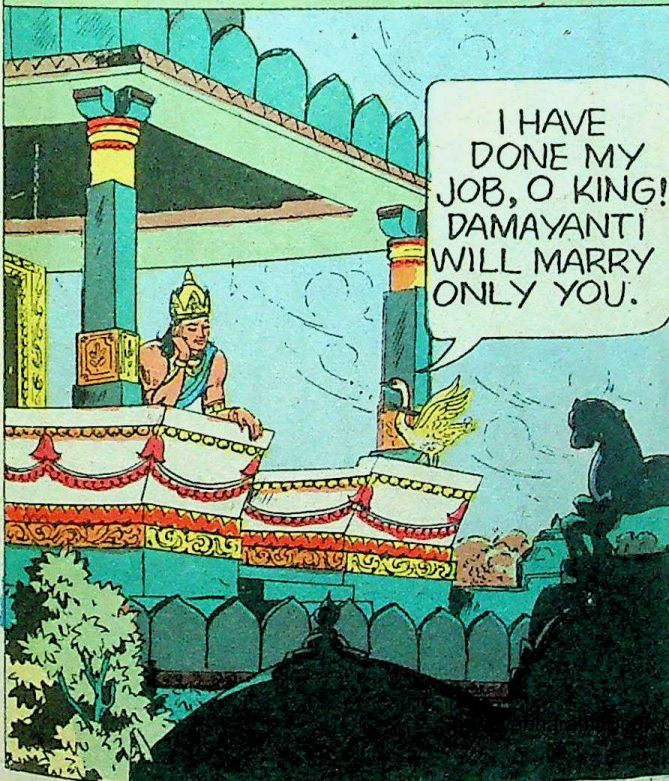
THE SWAN SPOKE OF NALA
AND PRAISED HIM HIGHLY.

KING NALA MUST BE A
WONDERFUL MAN! I'LL MARRY
HIM AND NONE OTHER.



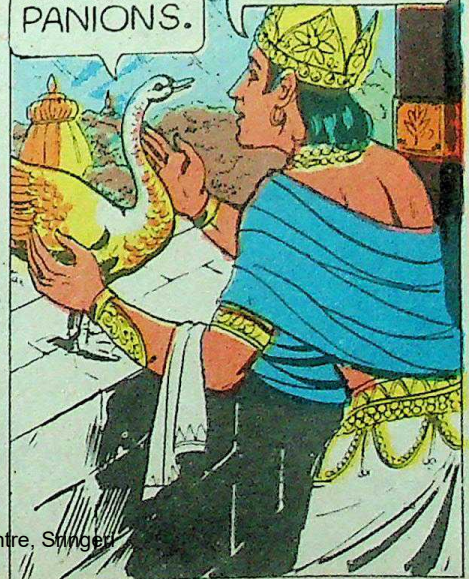
THE SWAN RETURNED TO NALA.

I HAVE
DONE MY
JOB, O KING!
DAMAYANTI
WILL MARRY
ONLY YOU.

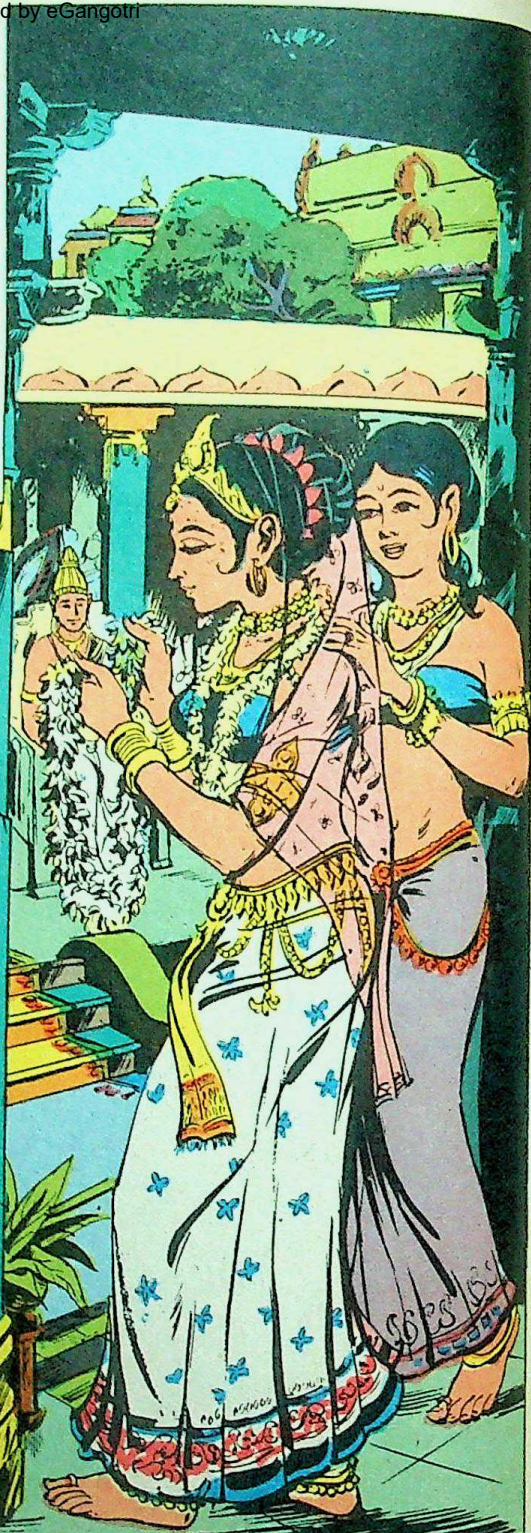


I HAVE
KEPT MY
PROMISE.
LET ME
NOW GO
BACK TO
MY COM-
PANIONS.

I WILL MISS
YOU, MY
FRIEND, BUT
I DON'T WANT
TO KEEP YOU
AWAY FROM
YOUR
FRIENDS.



NALA WAS SOON INVITED TO
DAMAYANTI'S SWAYAMVARA.



PRINCES FROM FAR AND NEAR HAD GATHERED IN THE SWAYAM-
VARA HALL. DAMAYANTI ENTERED WITH THE GARLAND.
THE PRINCES WERE RESTLESS. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT
DAMAYANTI'S GARLAND WAS MEANT ONLY FOR NALA.

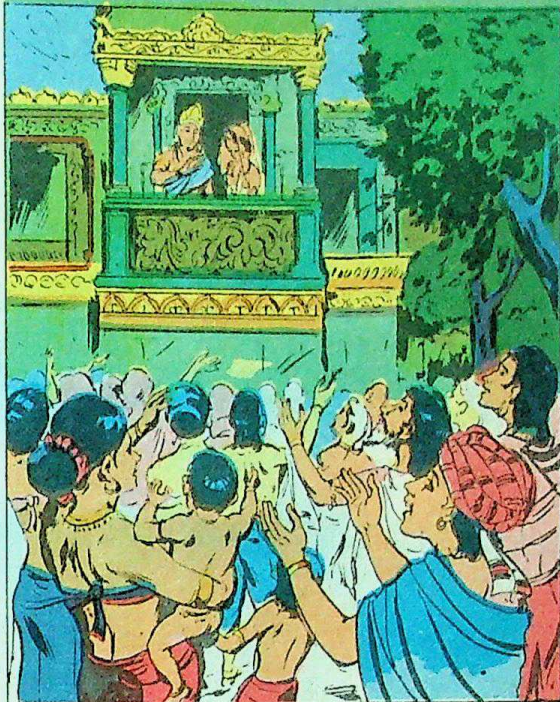
DAMAYANTI GARLANDS NALA.

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LONG LIVE KING NALA!



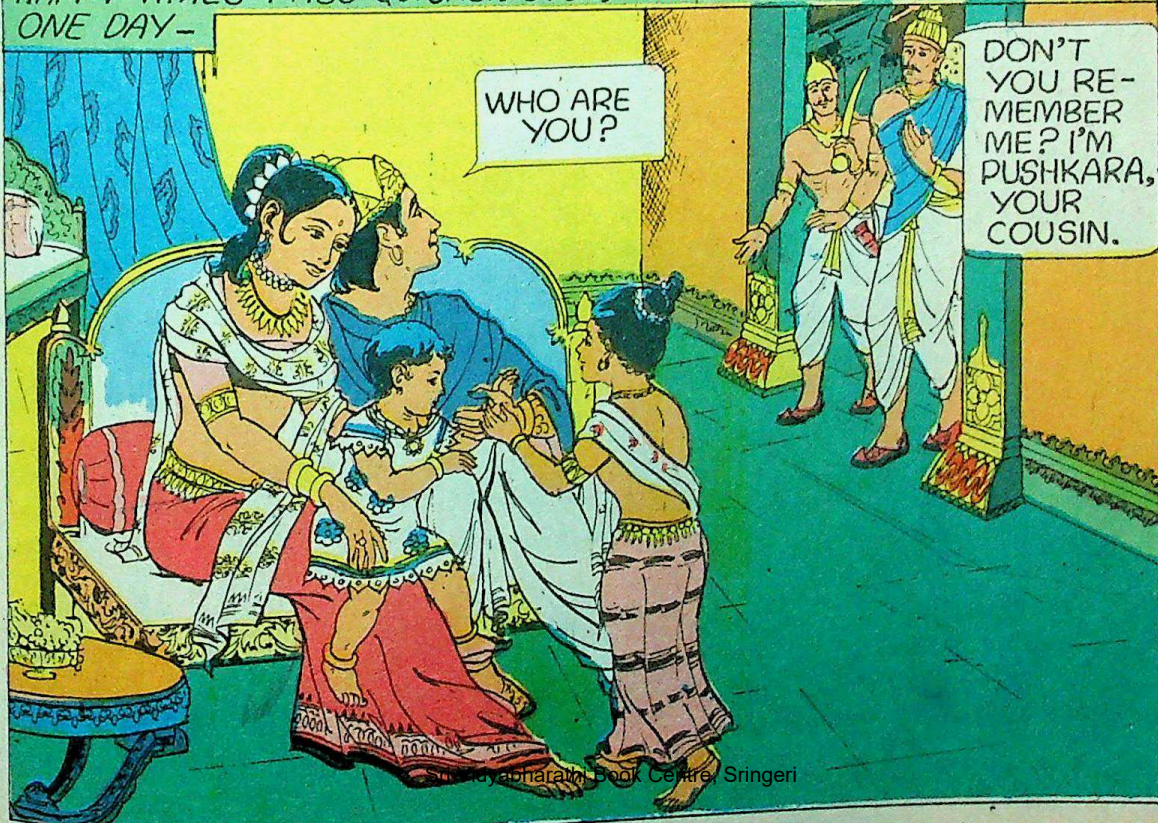
NALA BROUGHT DAMAYANTI TO HIS PALACE. PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD, DANCED WITH JOY.



HAPPY TIMES PASS QUICKLY. SOON, TWELVE YEARS WERE OVER. ONE DAY—

WHO ARE YOU?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME? I'M PUSHKARA, YOUR COUSIN.



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AM TIRED OF FOREST
LIFE AND HAVE COME
BACK TO ENJOY THE
PLEASURES OF THE
CITY ONCE AGAIN.

YOU ARE
WELCOME
HERE.

PUSHKARA, THIS PALACE
IS BEING BUILT FOR YOU.

NALA TRIED HIS BEST TO
KEEP HIS COUSIN HAPPY.

BEFORE LONG,
EVEN HIS
CROWN WILL
BE MINE!

PUSHKARA INVITED NALA TO GAMBLE
WITH HIM NOW AND AGAIN.

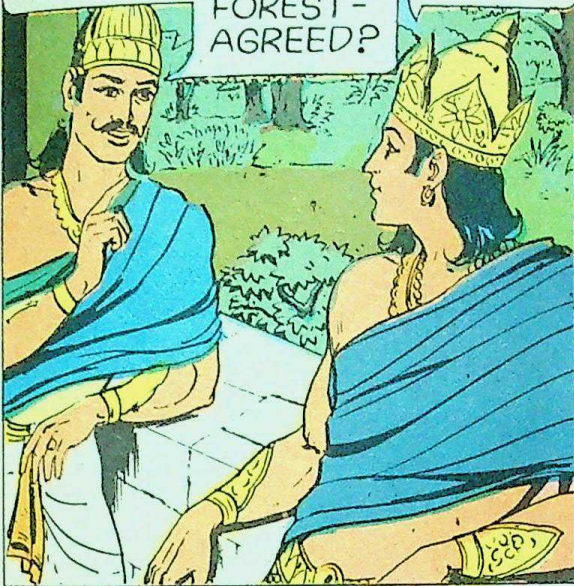
PUSHKARA WAS A
CUNNING MAN.

BUT NALA KEPT ON LOSING

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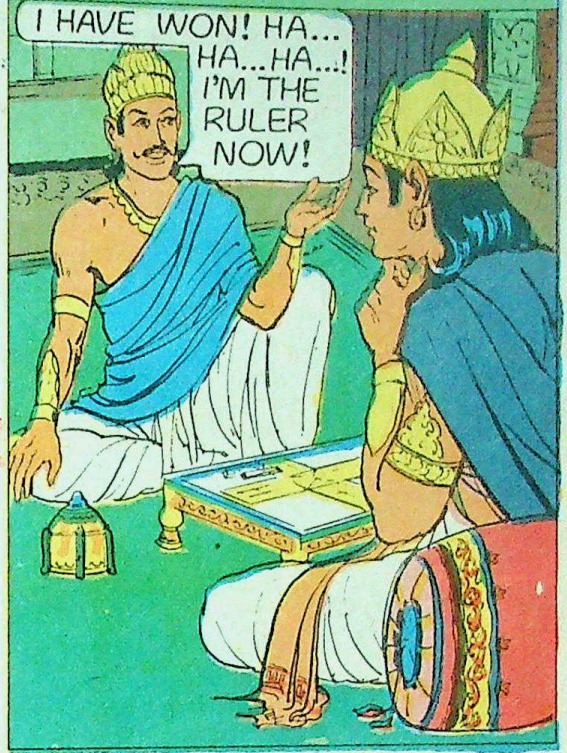
NOW FOR THE LAST
ROUND, THE WINNER
GETS THE CROWN AND
THE LOSER SPENDS
THREE YEARS IN THE
FOREST -
AGREED?

AGREED!



THE DICE WERE CAST.

I HAVE WON! HA...
HA...HA...!
I'M THE
RULER
NOW!



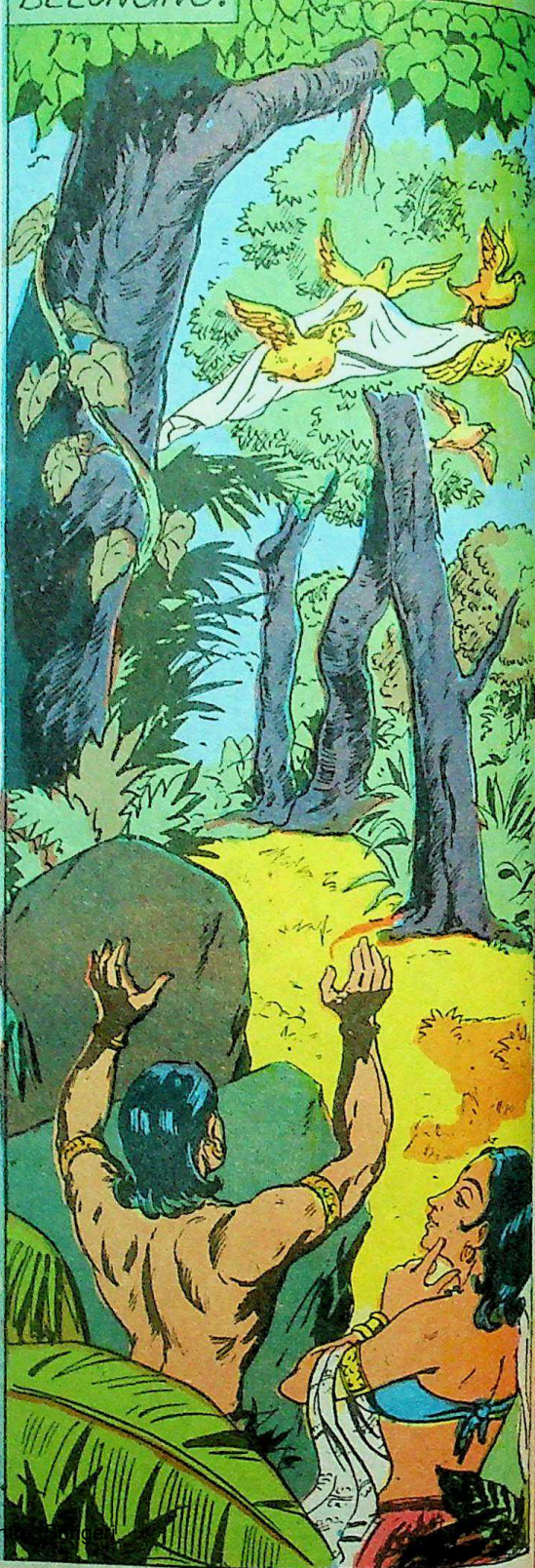
NALA GAVE UP THE KINGDOM. DAMAYANTI SENT THE CHILDREN TO
HER PARENTS AND WENT
AWAY WITH NALA.



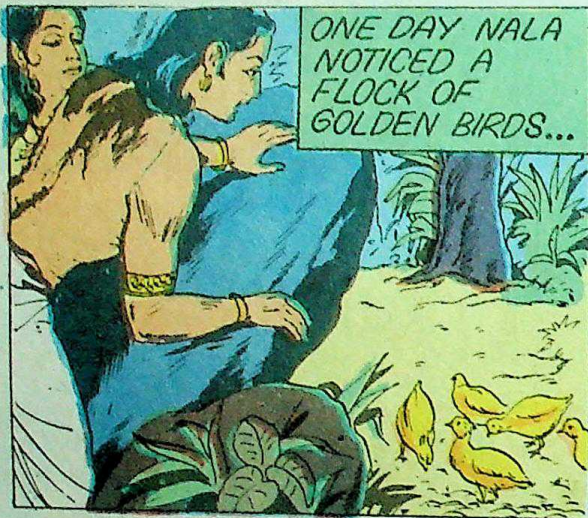
THEY WANDERED ON THE FOREST WITHOUT FOOD AND WATER.



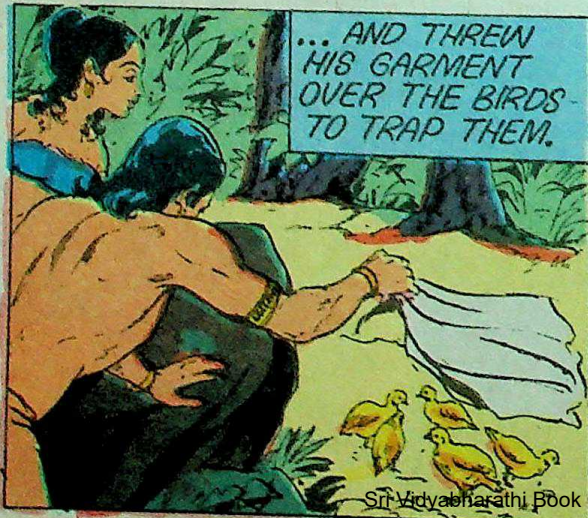
AS HE LEANED FORWARD, THE BIRDS FLEW AWAY WITH THE GARMENT—NALA'S ONLY BELONGING!



ONE DAY NALA NOTICED A FLOCK OF GOLDEN BIRDS...



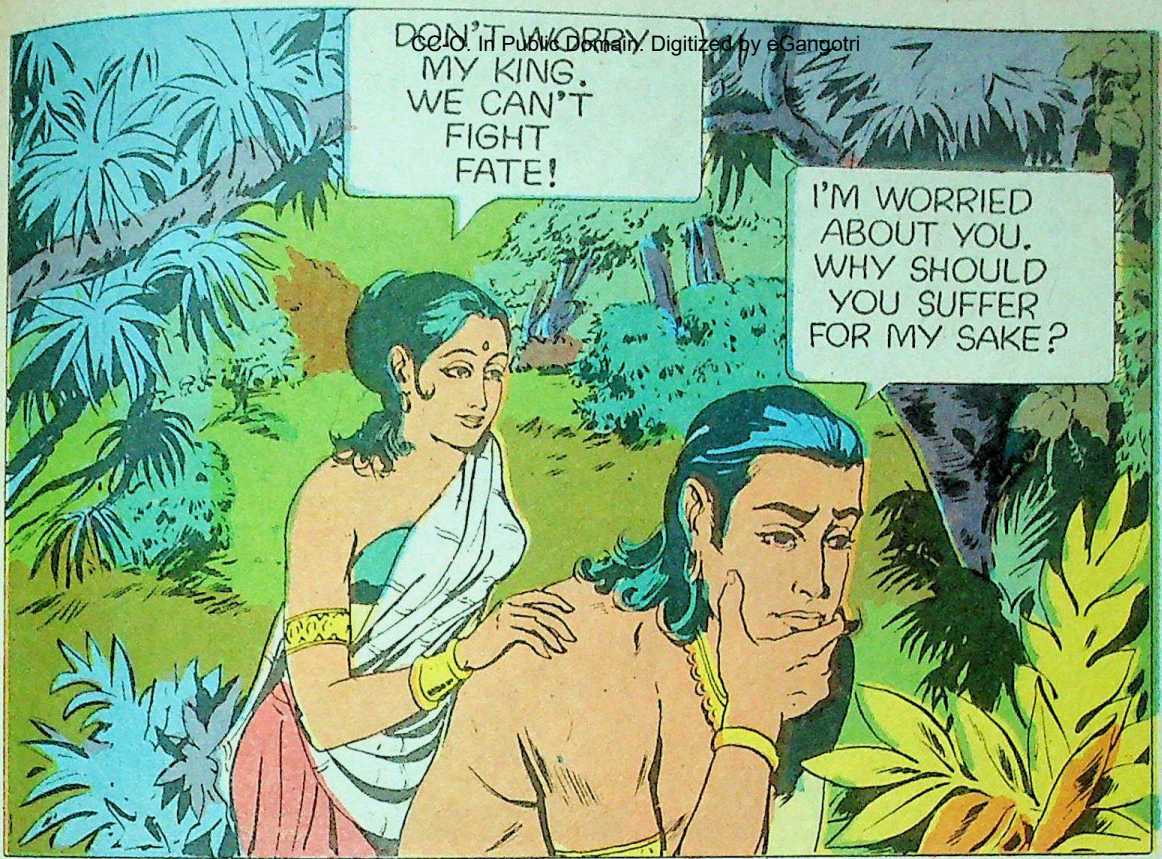
... AND THREW HIS GARMENT OVER THE BIRDS TO TRAP THEM.



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DON'T WORRY
MY KING.
WE CAN'T
FIGHT
FATE!

I'M WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.
WHY SHOULD
YOU SUFFER
FOR MY SAKE?



NALA GREW SAD.

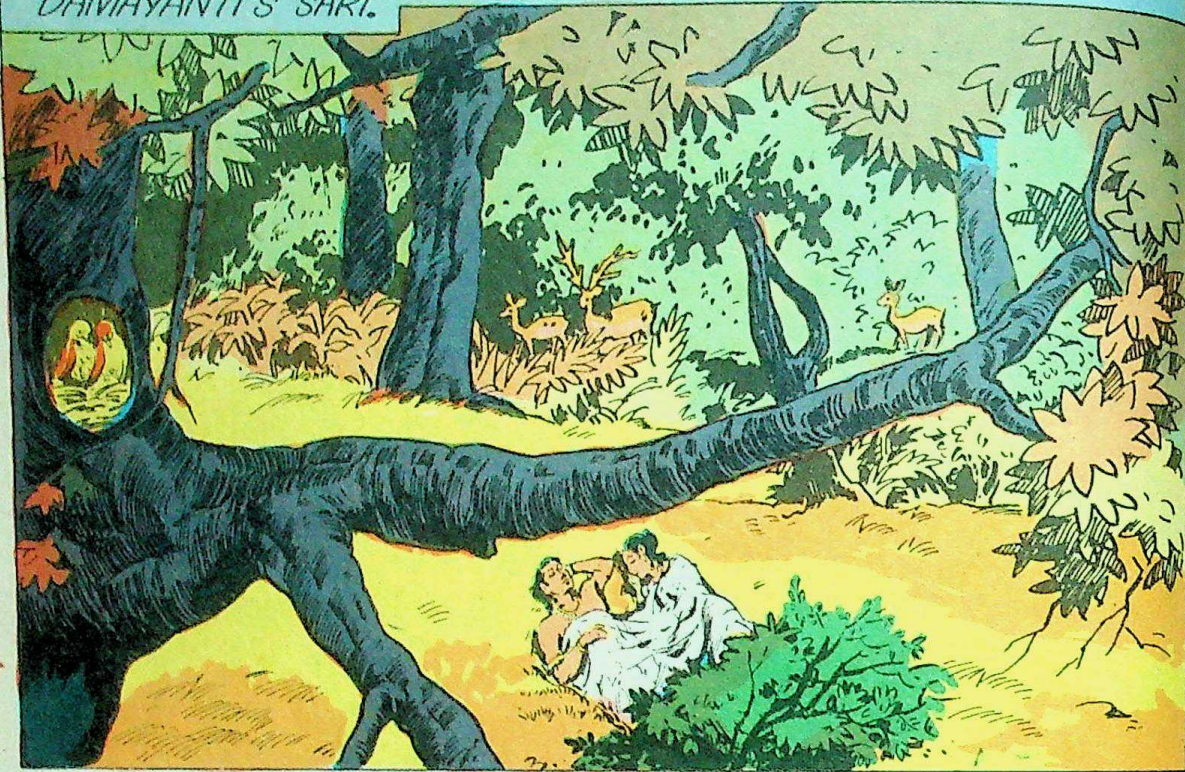
LISTEN, THIS
IS THE WAY TO
YOUR FATHER'S
KINGDOM.
YOU
SHOULD...



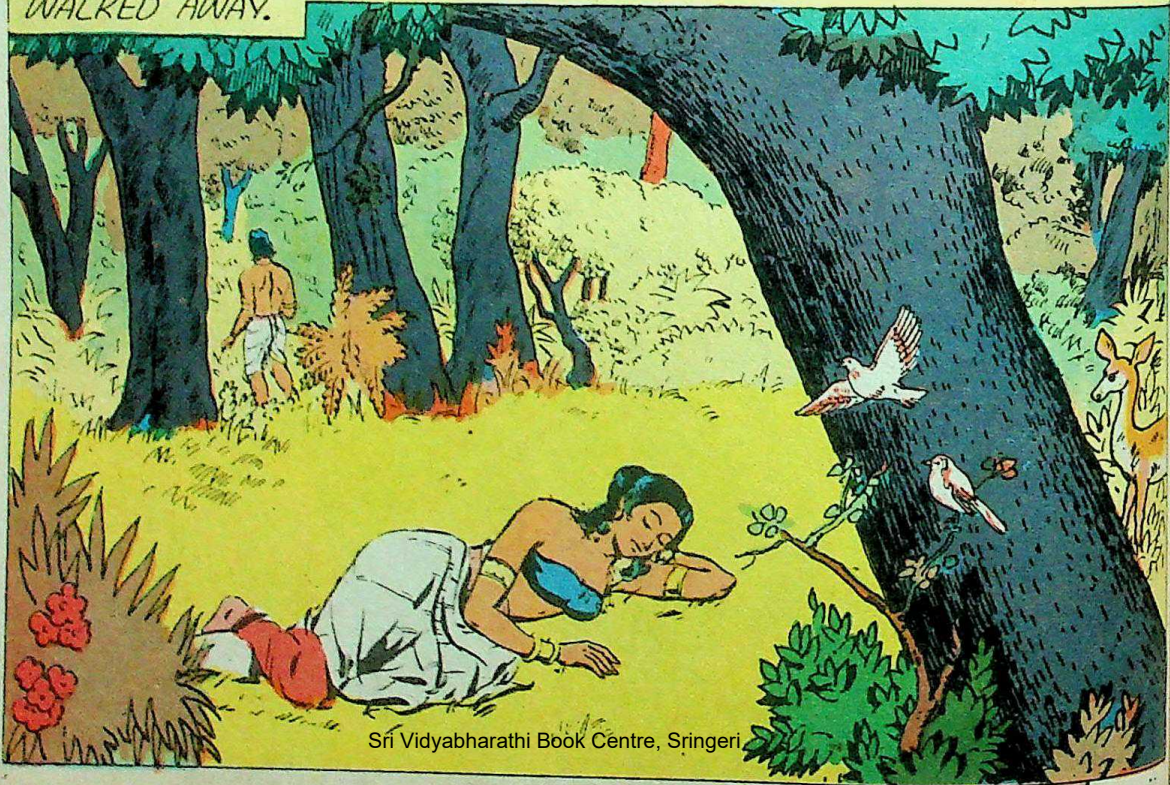
OH, NO!
I WILL
NOT LEAVE
YOU
HERE
ALONE.



AT NIGHT THEY SLEPT ON THE BARE GROUND COVERED BY DAMAYANTI'S SARI.



EARLY NEXT MORNING, WHEN NALA WOKE UP, HE TORE A PIECE FROM DAMAYANTI'S SARI. WRAPPING HIMSELF IN IT, HE QUIETLY WALKED AWAY.



HE WALKED FOR A LONG TIME
SUDDENLY—

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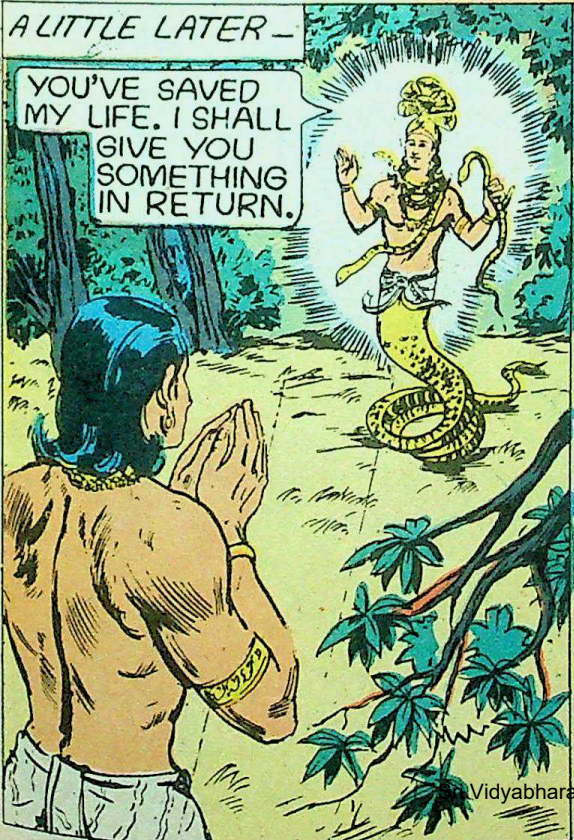


OH, HERE
IS THE
SERPENT
GOD.

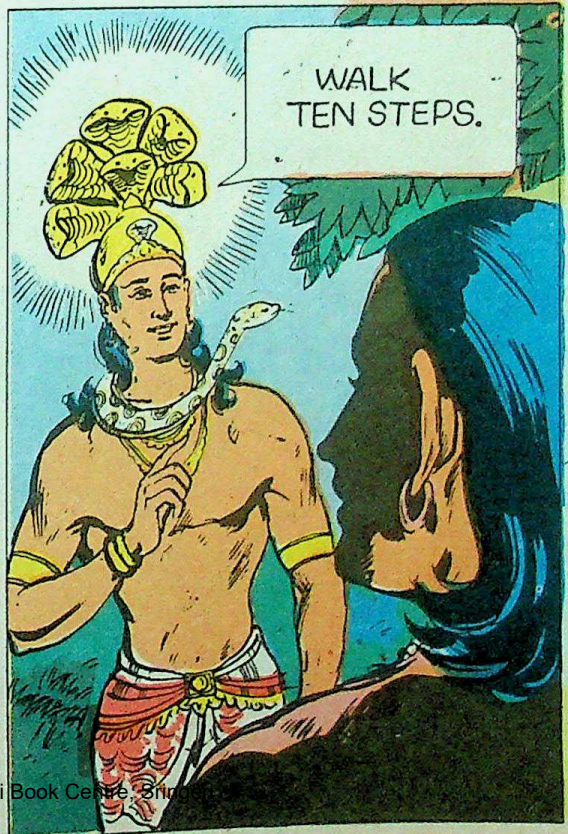
NALA JUMPED INTO THE FIRE.

A LITTLE LATER—

YOU'VE SAVED
MY LIFE. I SHALL
GIVE YOU
SOMETHING
IN RETURN.

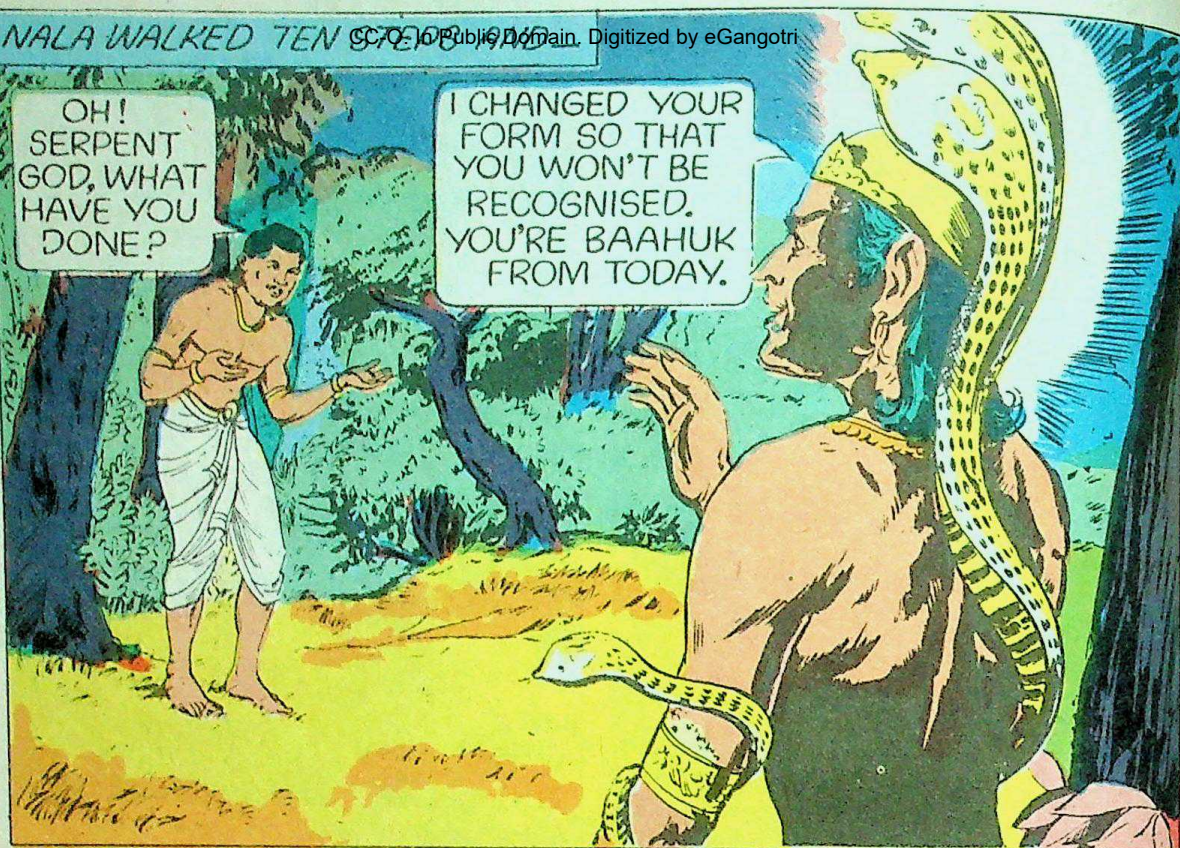


WALK
TEN STEPS.

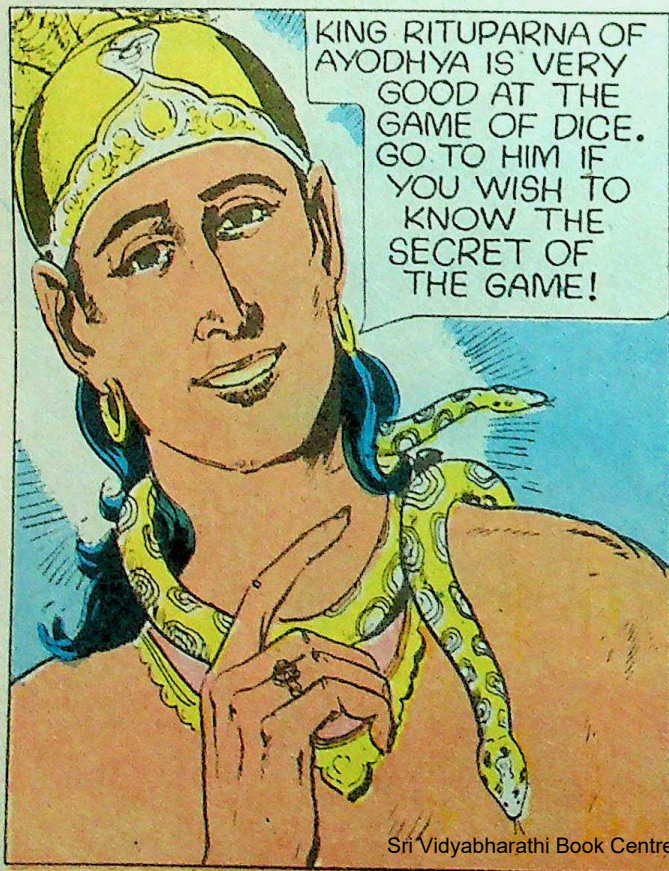


OH!
SERPENT
GOD, WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?

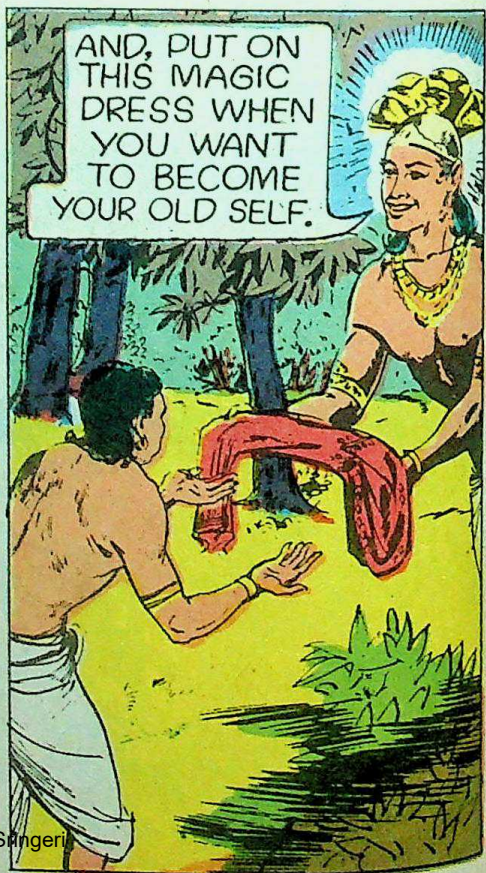
I CHANGED YOUR
FORM SO THAT
YOU WON'T BE
RECOGNISED.
YOU'RE BAAHUK
FROM TODAY.



KING RITUPARNA OF
AYODHYA IS VERY
GOOD AT THE
GAME OF DICE.
GO TO HIM IF
YOU WISH TO
KNOW THE
SECRET OF
THE GAME!



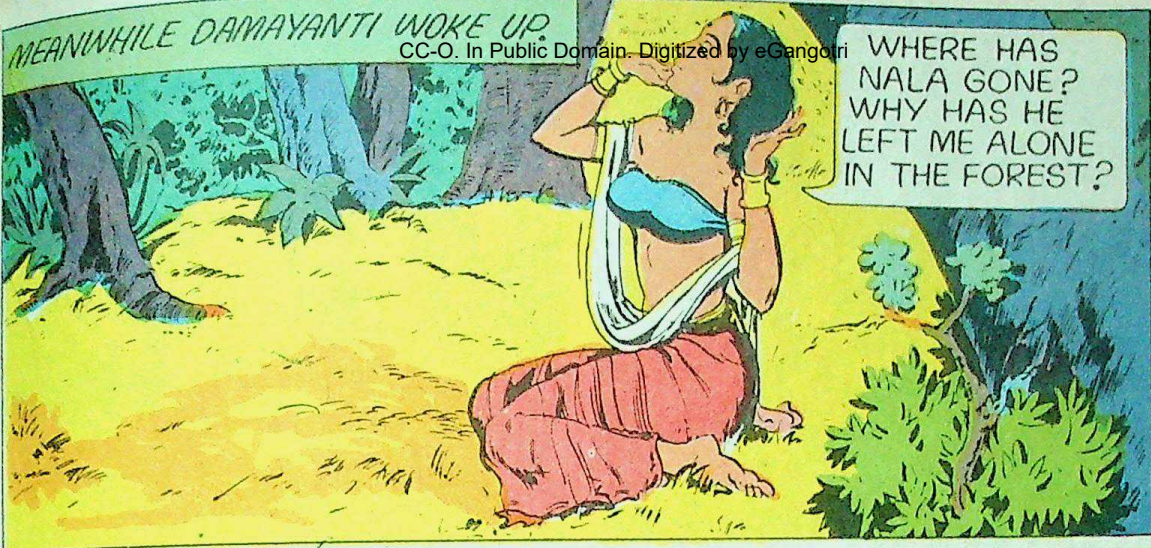
AND, PUT ON
THIS MAGIC
DRESS WHEN
YOU WANT
TO BECOME
YOUR OLD SELF.



MEANWHILE DAMAYANTI WOKE UP

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WHERE HAS
NALA GONE?
WHY HAS HE
LEFT ME ALONE
IN THE FOREST?



NALA! OH, NALA!



DAMAYANTI WANDERED IN
THE FOREST CRYING FOR NALA.

DAMAYANTI ASKED THE ANIMALS
AND BIRDS.

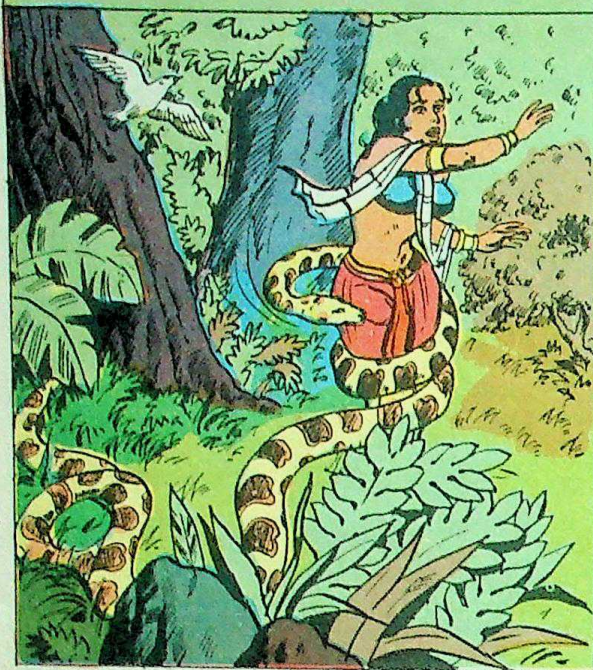
O JUMPING
DEER!
O LITTLE
SPARROW!
HAVE YOU
SEEN MY
NALA?



A DEADLY PYTHON SAW DAMA-
YANTI AND OPENED ITS JAWS.

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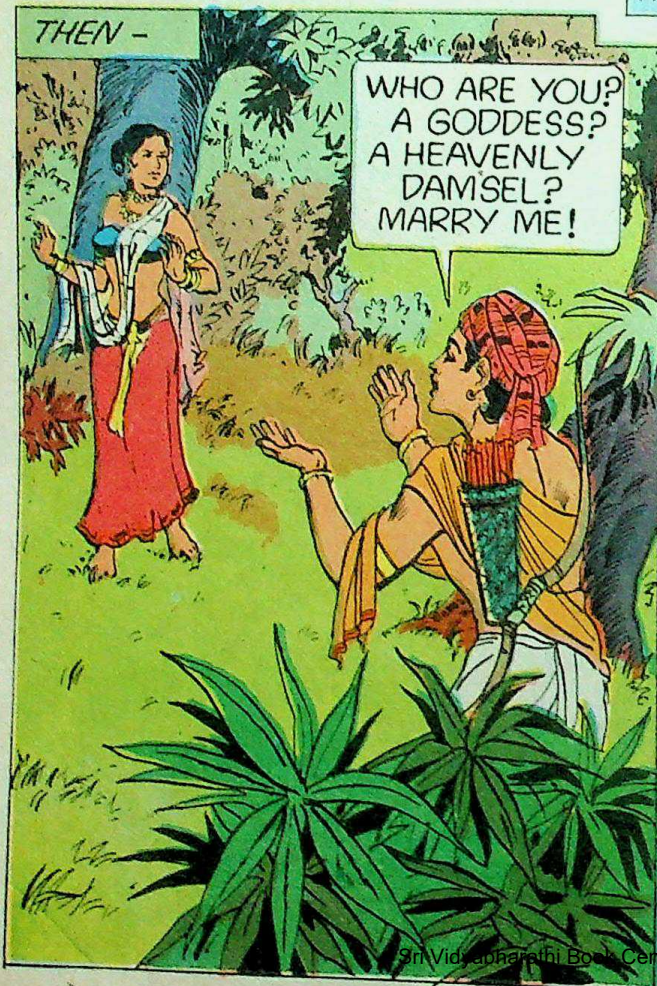
IT CAUGHT DAMAYANTI'S LEG.



SUDDENLY A HUNTER'S ARROW HIT AND KILLED THE PYTHON.

THEN -

WHO ARE YOU?
A GODDESS?
A HEAVENLY
DAMSEL?
MARRY ME!



OH, MY MISFORTUNE!
I WISH THE PYTHON
HAD KILLED ME...!
STAY WHERE YOU
ARE, IF YOU TAKE
ONE STEP FURTHER,
YOU WILL BE BURNED.



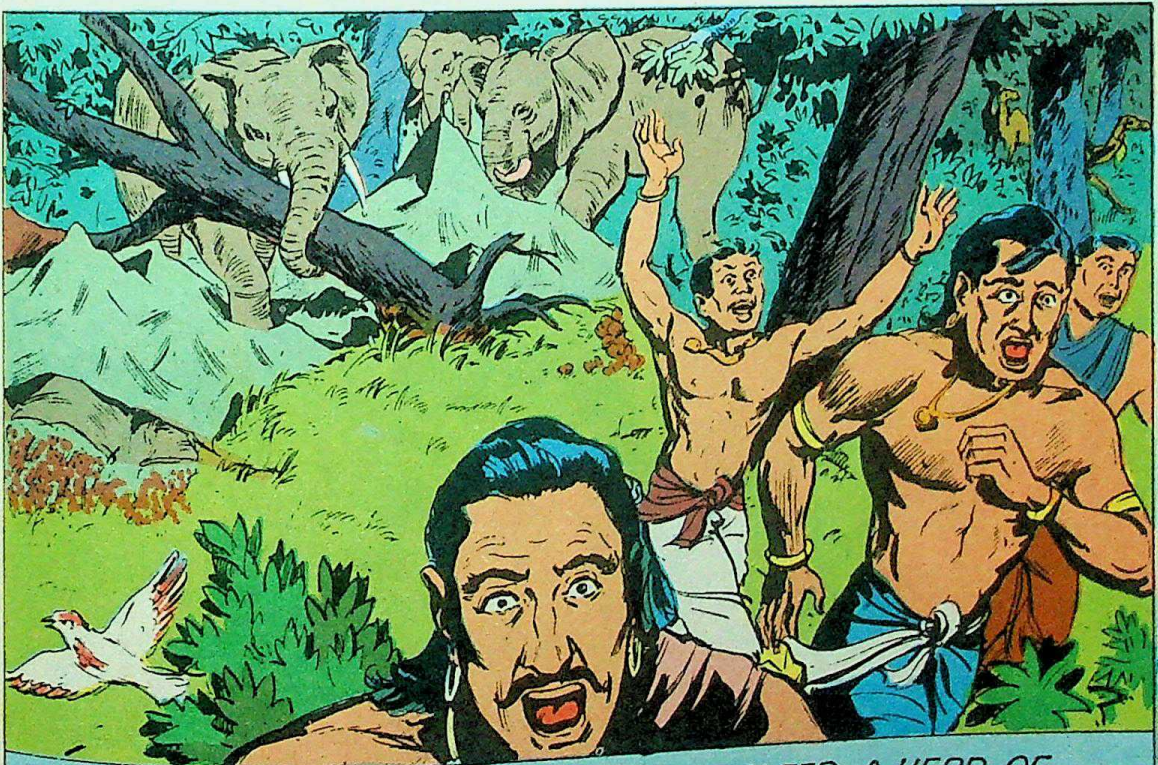
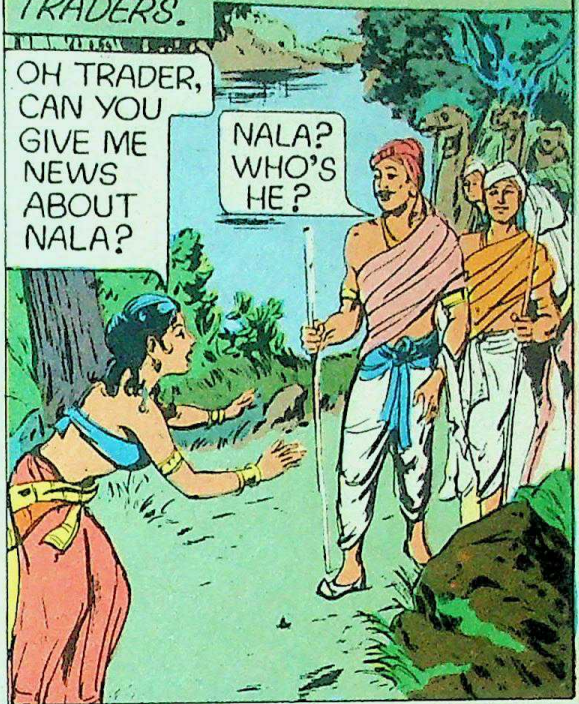


BY HER CURSE, THE HUNTER WAS BURNT TO ASHES.

STUMBLING AND FALLING, DAMA-YANTI REACHED THE RIVER BANK. THERE SHE MET A GROUP OF TRADERS.

OH TRADER, CAN YOU GIVE ME NEWS ABOUT NALA?

NALA? WHO'S HE?



AT NIGHT WHEN THE TRADERS WERE ASLEEP, A HERD OF ELEPHANTS CAME THAT WAY AND DESTROYED ALL THAT THEY CARRIED.

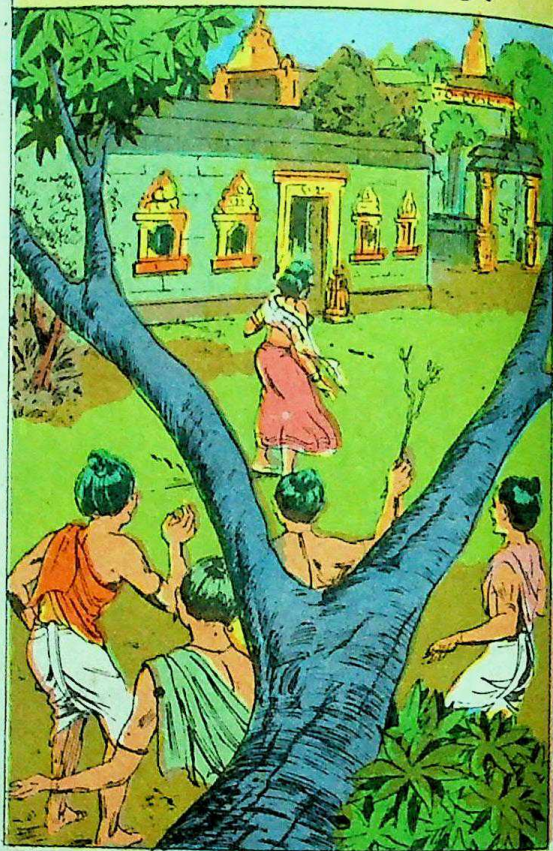
WE'VE LOST EVERYTHING!
THIS WOMAN HAS BROUGHT
US ILL-
LUCK.

BEAT
HER!

BEAT
HER!

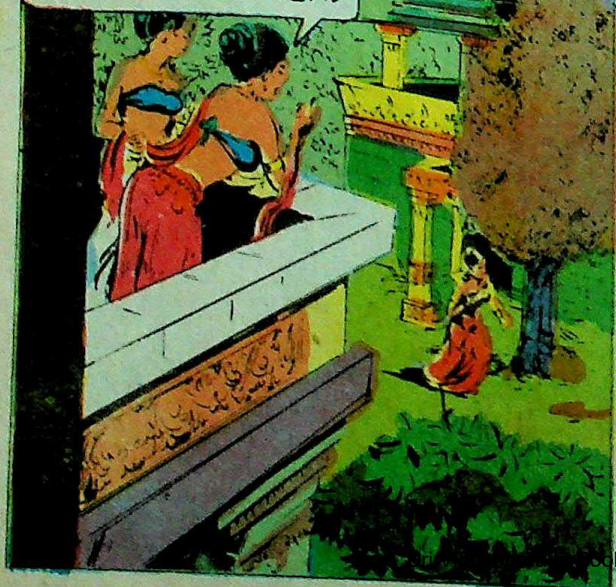


DAMAYANTI RUNNING FOR
HER LIFE, REACHED THE
KINGDOM OF VIPRAPUR.
CHILDREN TEASED HER
AND CALLED HER MAD.

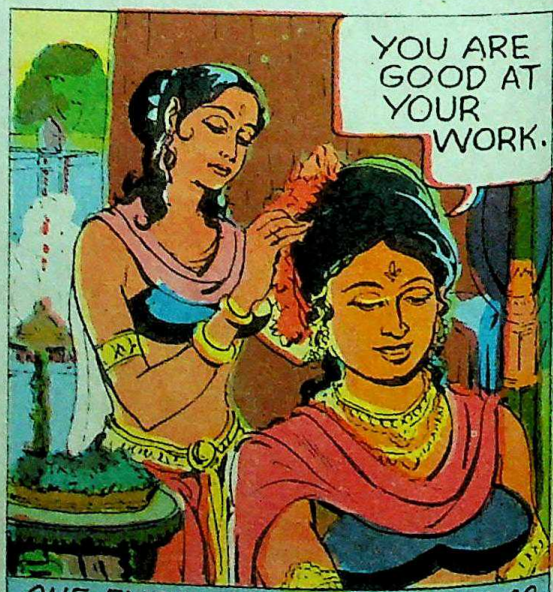


QUEEN BHANUMATI SAW HER
FROM THE
TERRACE.

SHE SEEMS TO BE A
WOMAN FROM A GOOD
FAMILY. CALL HER!

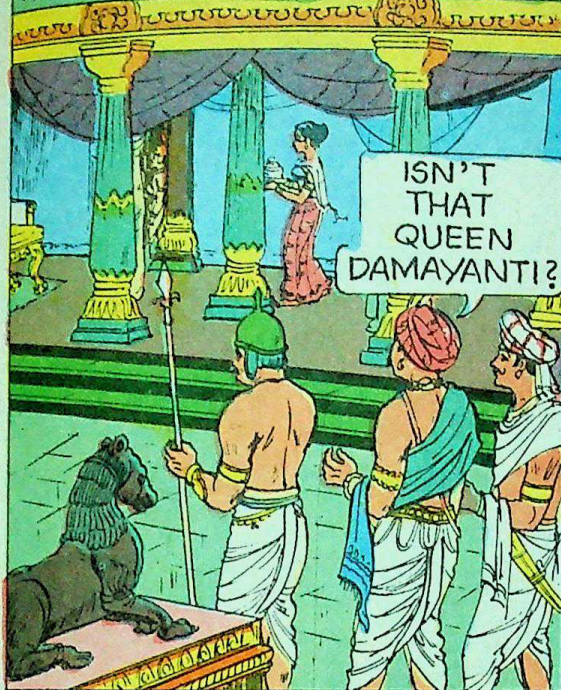


YOU ARE
GOOD AT
YOUR
WORK.



SHE ENGAGED DAMAYANTI AS
A MAID NOT KNOWING WHO
SHE REALLY WAS.

ONE DAY, THE MINISTER OF KUNDANPUR CAME TO VIRAPUR.

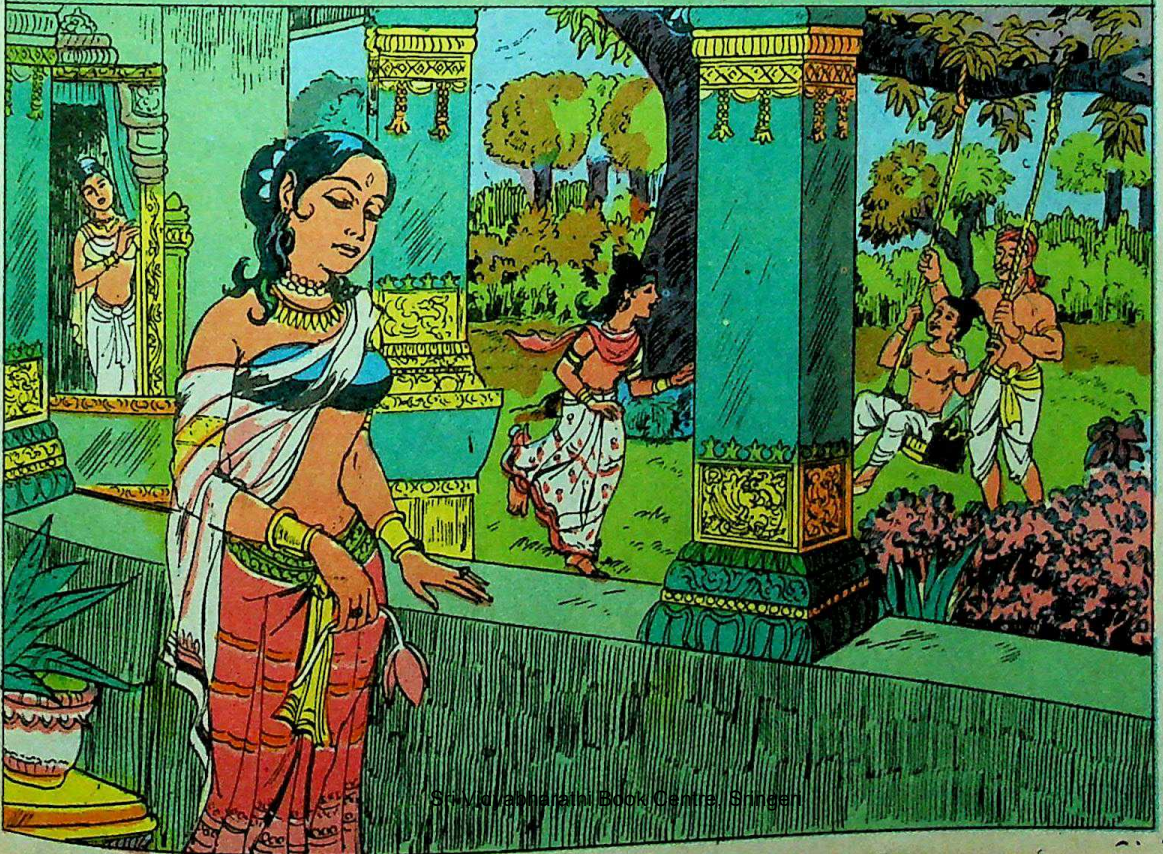


HOW DID YOU COME HERE?

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING A LONG TIME FOR YOU. I'LL TAKE YOU TO KUNDANPUR.



DAMAYANTI CAME TO KUNDANPUR. HER CHILDREN HAD GROWN UP. SHE WATCHED THEM AT PLAY AND MISSED NALA.



IT'S NO USE
LIVING WITHOUT
NALA. I WONDER
WHERE HE IS!

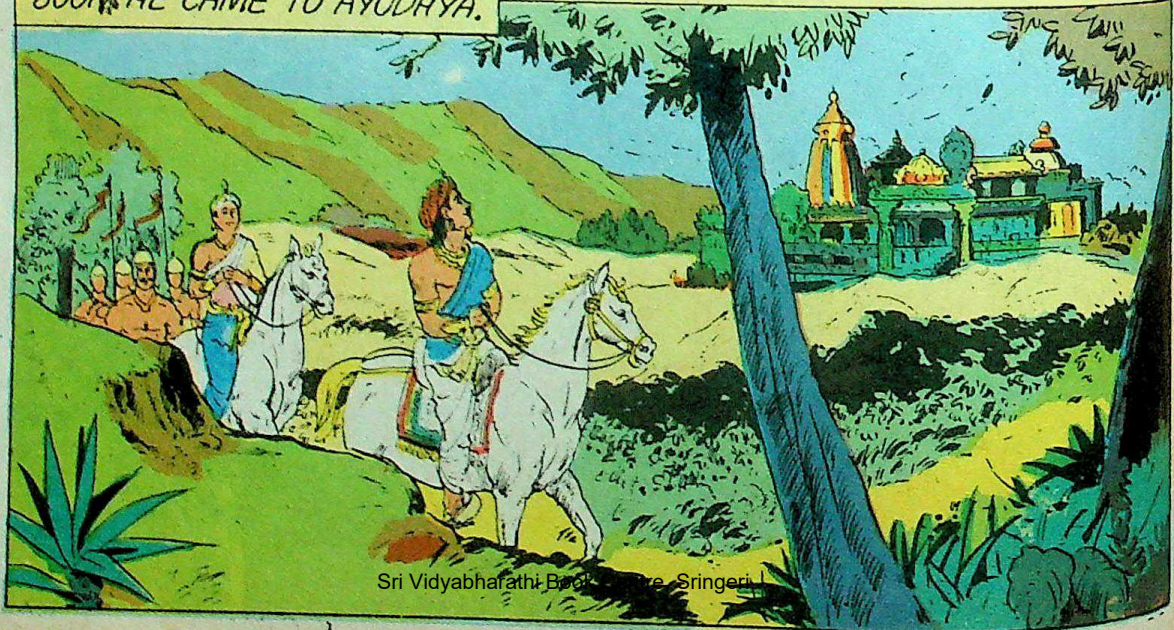
DAMAYANTI WAS STILL UNHAPPY.

I'VE NO DESIRE
TO EAT,
FATHER!

BUT YOU MUST,
DAMAYANTI!
I PROMISE, WE
SHALL FIND OUT
WHERE NALA
IS, SOON.

HER FATHER CONSOLED HER.

ONE DAY, THE KING'S MINISTER SET OUT IN SEARCH OF NALA.
SOON HE CAME TO AYODHYA.

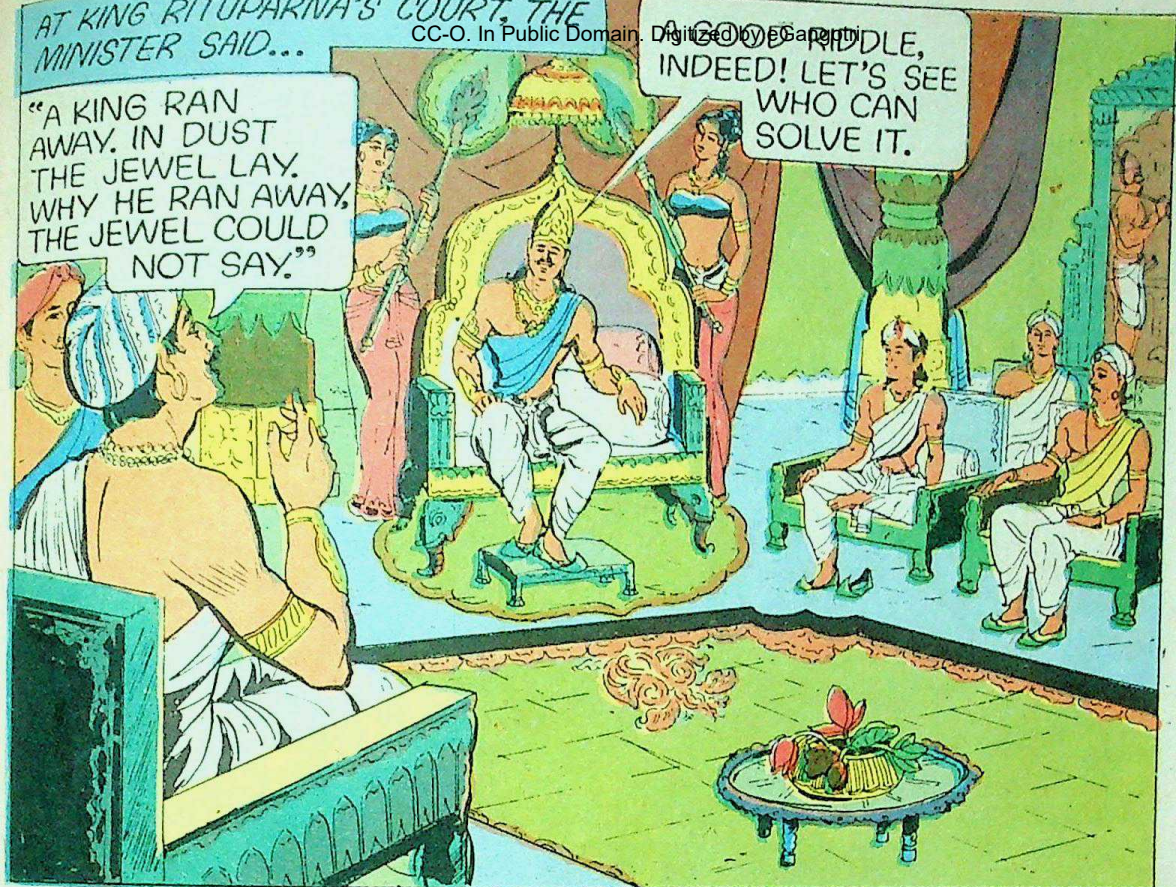


AT KING RITUPARNA'S COURT, THE
MINISTER SAID...

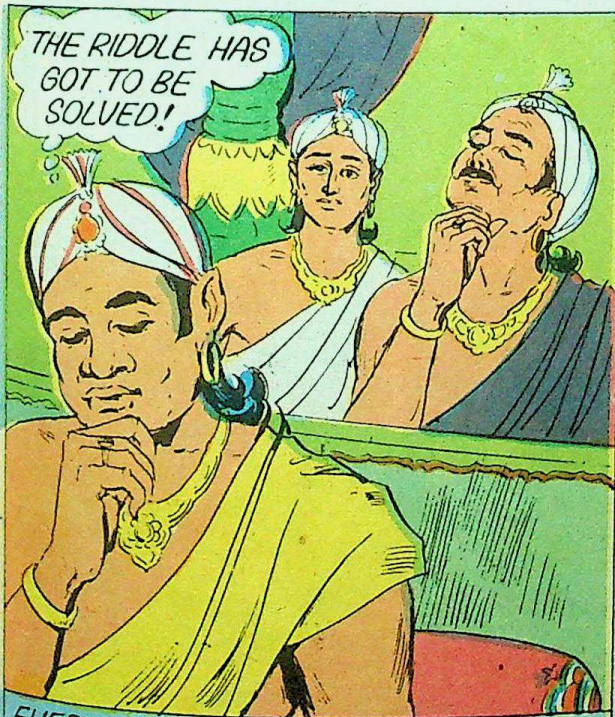
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"A KING RAN
AWAY. IN DUST
THE JEWEL LAY.
WHY HE RAN AWAY,
THE JEWEL COULD
NOT SAY."

A GOOD RIDDLE,
INDEED! LET'S SEE
WHO CAN
SOLVE IT.



THE RIDDLE HAS
GOT TO BE
SOLVED!



EVERYONE WONDERED AT THE
STRANGE WORDS OF THE MINISTER.

SUDDENLY—

MY LORD!
PERMIT
ME...



IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN
NALA, WHO HAD ASSUMED
THE NAME OF BAAHUK.

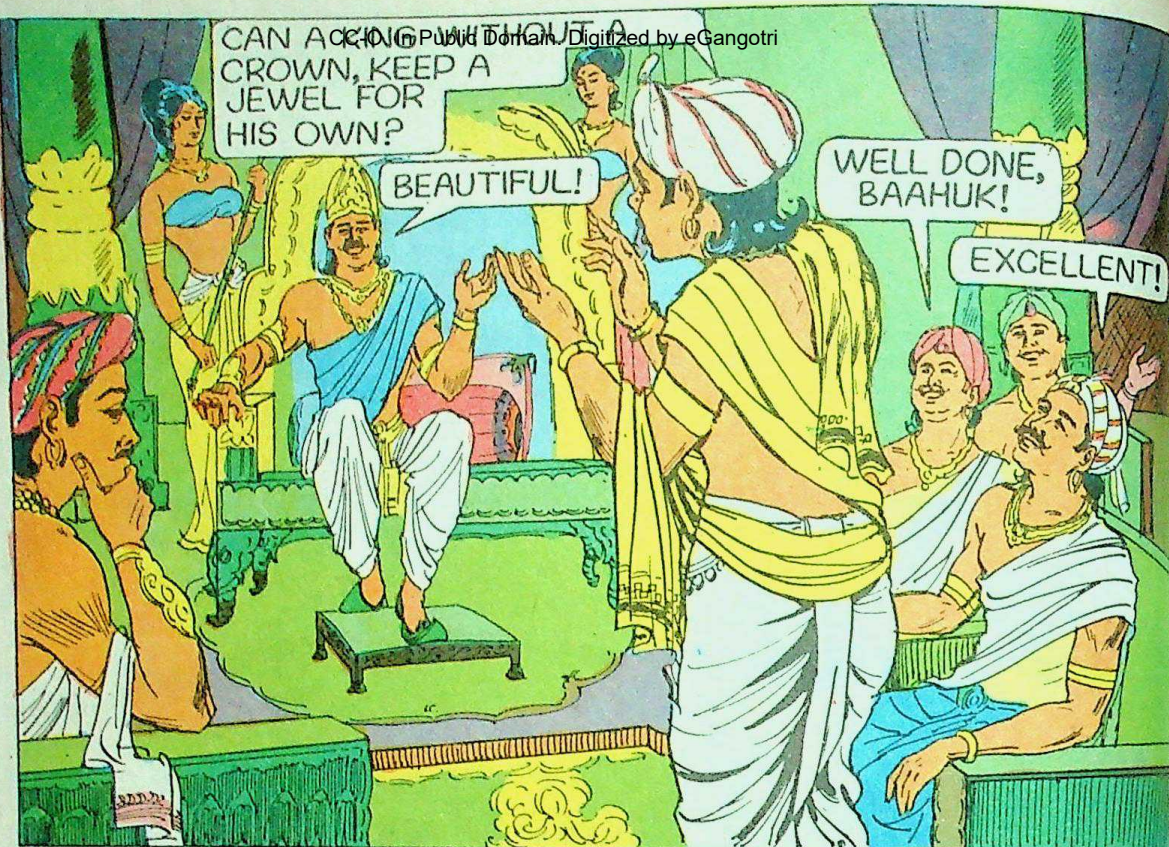
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CAN A KING WITHOUT A CROWN, KEEP A JEWEL FOR HIS OWN?

BEAUTIFUL!

WELL DONE, BAAHUK!

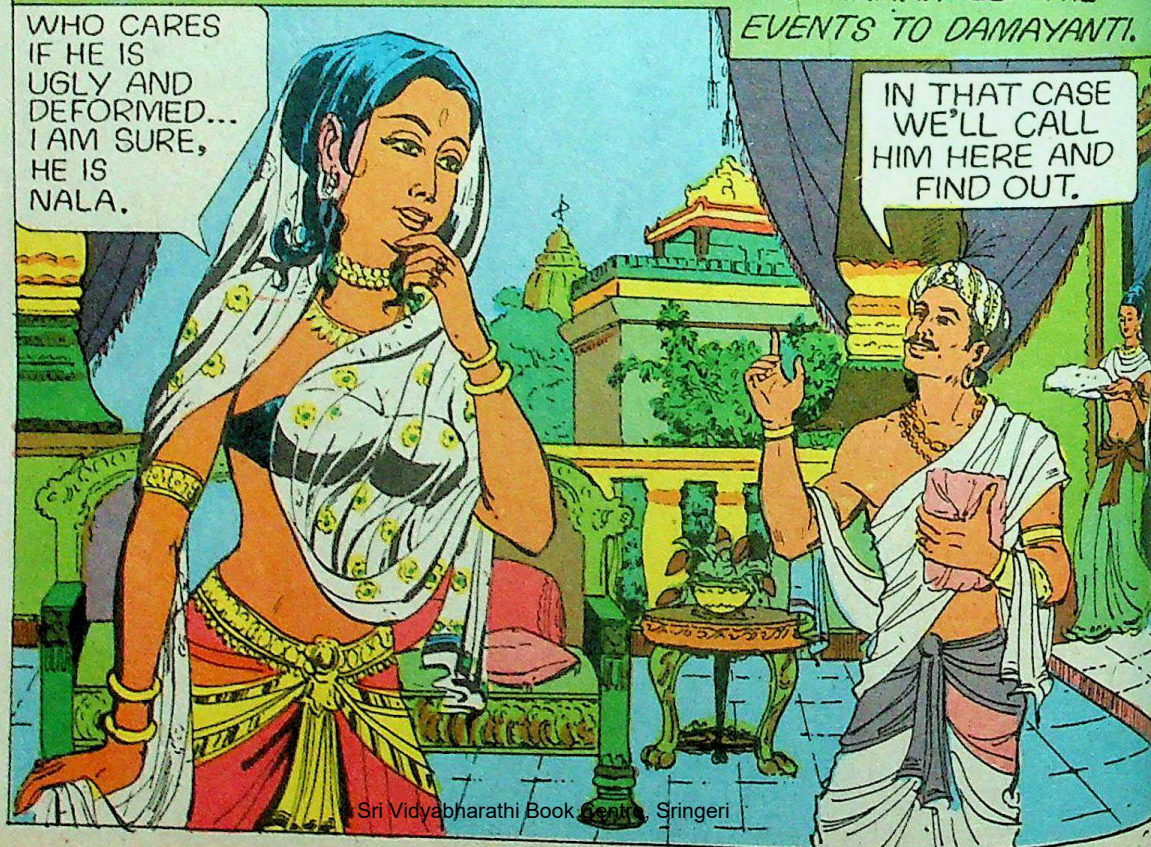
EXCELLENT!



THE MINISTER RETURNED TO KUNDANPUR AND NARRATED THE EVENTS TO DAMAYANTI.

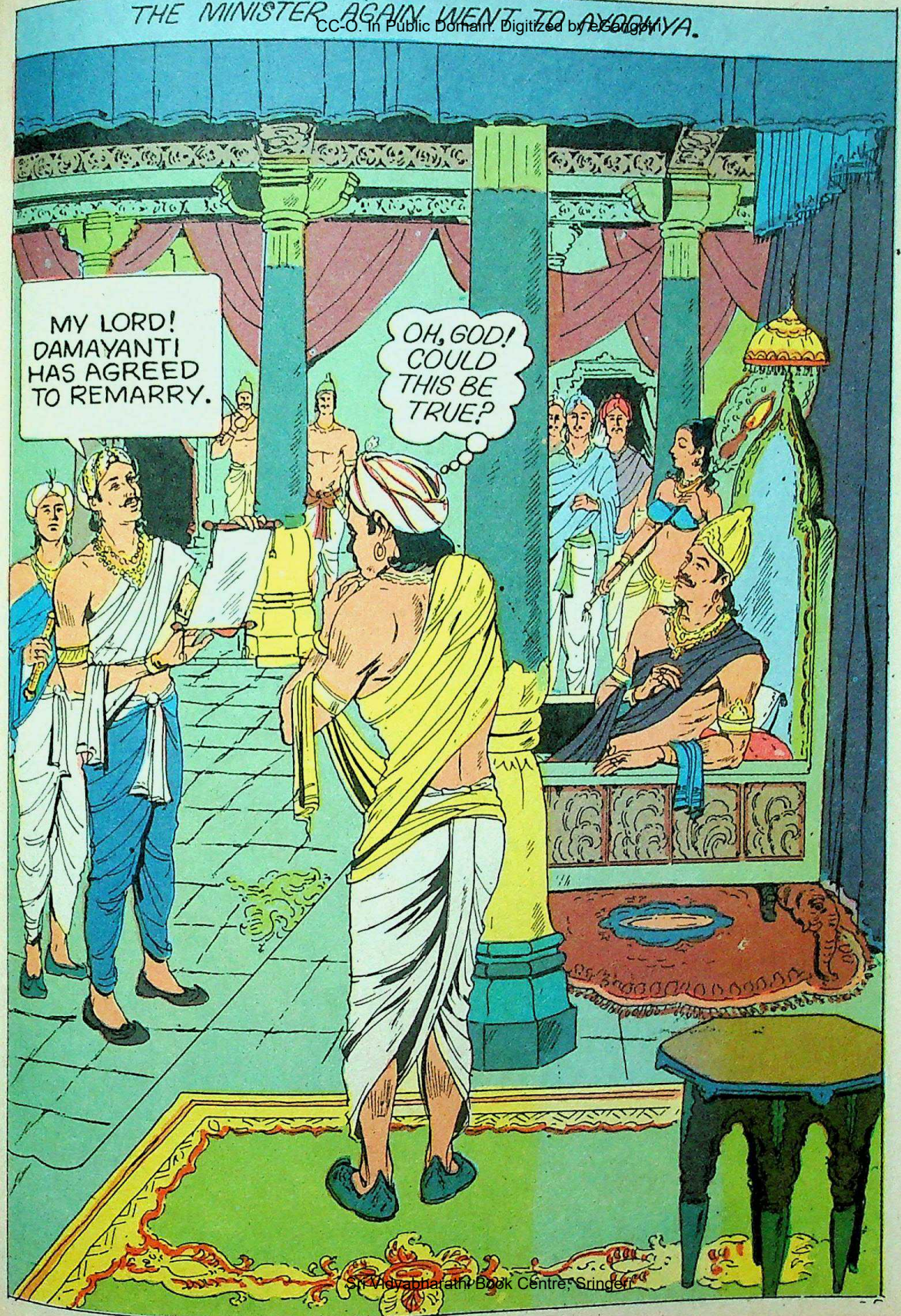
WHO CARES IF HE IS UGLY AND DEFORMED... I AM SURE, HE IS NALA.

IN THAT CASE WE'LL CALL HIM HERE AND FIND OUT.



MY LORD!
DAMAYANTI
HAS AGREED
TO REMARRY.

OH, GOD!
COULD
THIS BE
TRUE?



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THE SWAYAMVARA IS
FIXED FOR TO-
MORROW AND
THE INVITATION
COMES TODAY!
HOW CAN I
MAKE IT?

DON'T
WORRY,
MY LORD!
I WILL
TAKE YOU
AS FAST
AS THE
WIND!

AND SURELY ENOUGH, THE HORSES SEEMED TO FLY IN
THE AIR. NALA WAS A GREAT CHARIOTEER.

AH, WHAT
SPEED!
THIS IS
THRILLING!

BAAHUK, TEACH ME
THE SECRET OF
DRIVING HORSES SO
FAST AND I'LL SHOW
YOU MY TRICKS IN
THE GAME OF DICE.

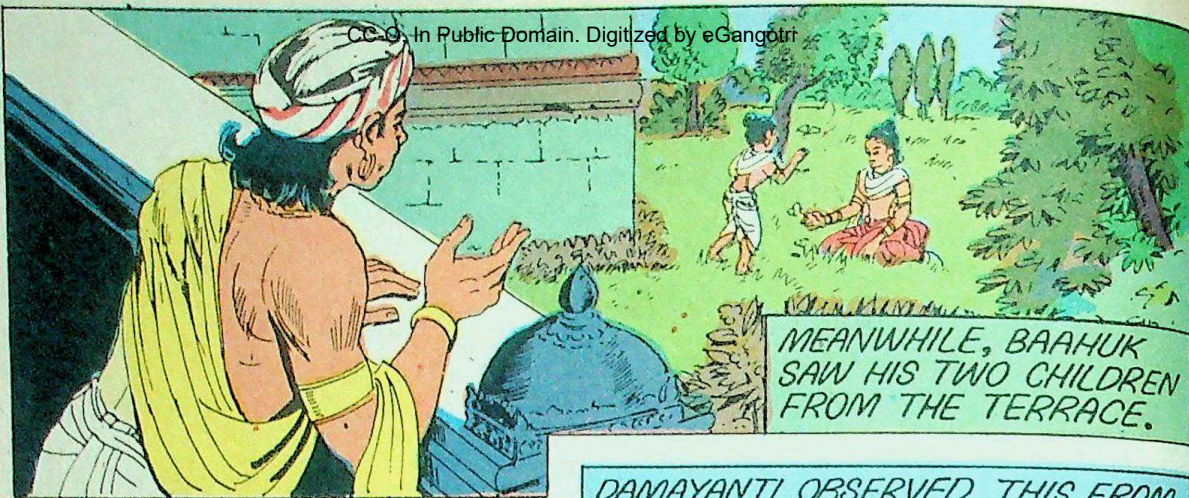
CERTAINLY,
MY LORD!

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BY THE TIME THEY REACHED KUNDANPUR, THEY HAD
EXCHANGED THEIR SECRETS.

NO BRIDE AND NO
SWAYAMVARA! IS
THE SWAYAMVARA
ARRANGED IN A
DIFFERENT CITY?

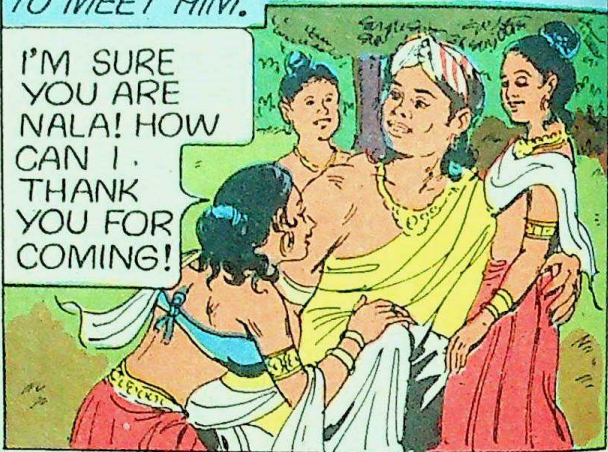
OH, NO!
THERE
ARE NO FESTIVITIES
BECAUSE IT IS THE
SECOND SWAYAMVARA!



MEANWHILE, BAAHUK SAW HIS TWO CHILDREN FROM THE TERRACE.

DAMAYANTI OBSERVED THIS FROM THE PALACE. SHE CAME RUNNING TO MEET HIM.

I'M SURE YOU ARE NALA! HOW CAN I! THANK YOU FOR COMING!



HE RAN UP TO THEM AND HUGGED THEM.

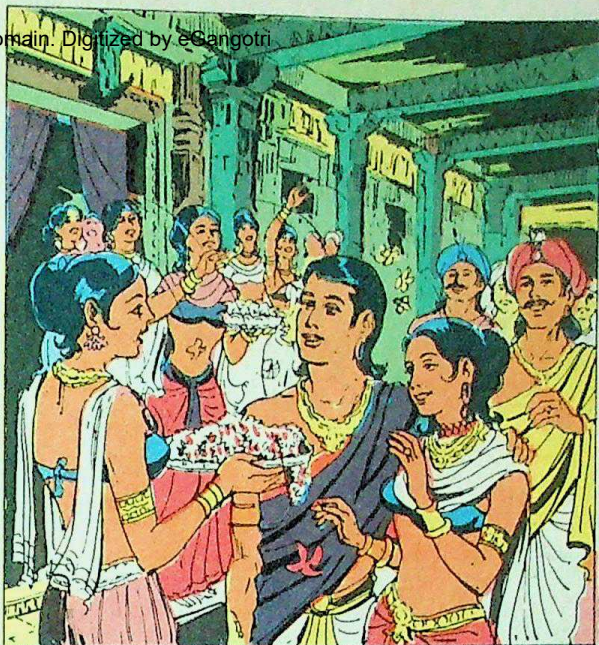
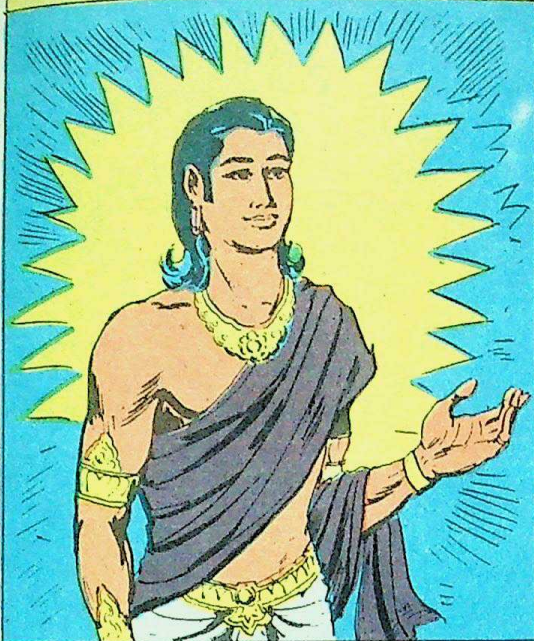


BUT WERE YOU GOING TO MARRY AGAIN, DAMAYANTI?

NO. IT WAS A TRICK TO GET YOU HERE. WHO ELSE BUT YOU COULD TRAVEL SUCH A LONG DISTANCE IN ONE DAY?

NALA PUT ON THE MAGIC DRESS AND -

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SEEING NALA SAFE AND SOUND, THE
PEOPLE WENT CRAZY WITH JOY.

NALA RETURNED TO HIS PALACE WITH DAMAYANTI AND THE CHILDREN.



PUSHKARA! I HAVE SPENT MY THREE YEARS IN THE FOREST. COME, LET'S HAVE AN-OTHER GAME OF DICE.

VERY WELL! THE WINNER WILL HAVE THE KINGDOM. AND THE LOSER WILL GO TO THE FOREST.

THEY SETTLED DOWN TO THE GAME. NALA HAD MASTERED THE GAME OF DICE WITH THE HELP OF KING RITUPARNA. IT WAS PUSHKARA'S TURN TO LOSE.

AND HE DID.

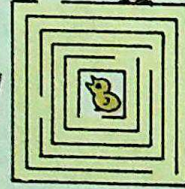
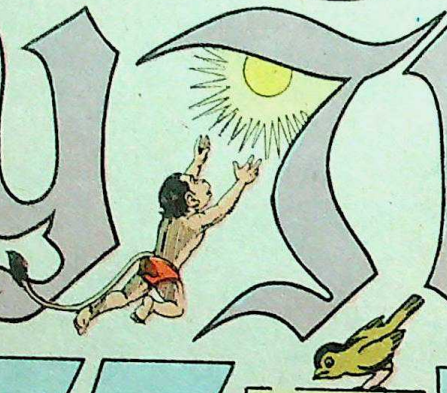
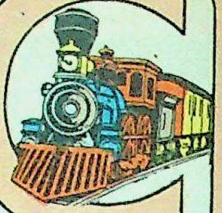
PUSHKARA! I'VE WON! I'VE WON!

BUT, I WON'T SEND YOU TO THE FOREST. YOU MAY CONTINUE TO LIVE HERE!



ONCE AGAIN, NALA WORE THE CROWN. DAMAYANTI WAS HIS QUEEN.
THEY LIVED HAPPILY FOR MANY YEARS AND RULED THE COUNTRY WELL.

SCIENCE ANIMAL LIFE HUMOUR MYSTHS PUZZLES

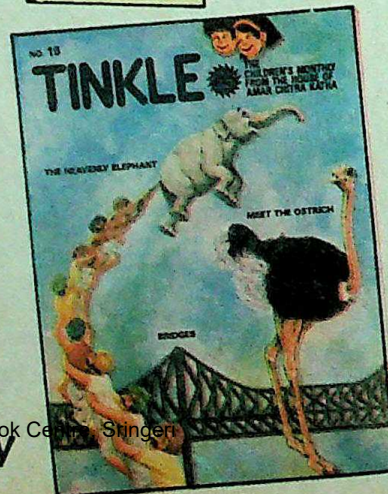


**KALIA
THE CROW**

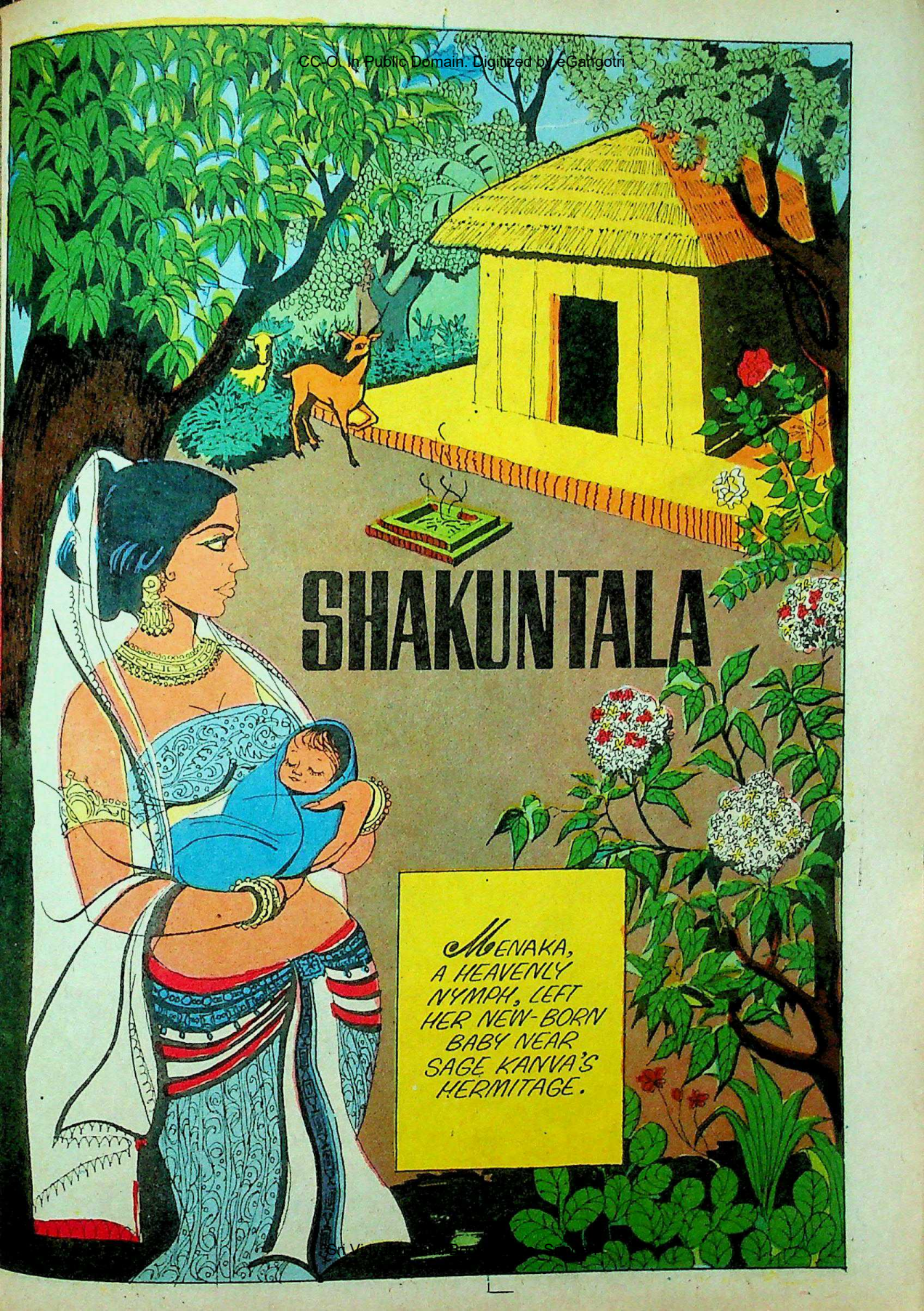
You get it
all in

TINKLE

—The all-comics
children's fortnightly

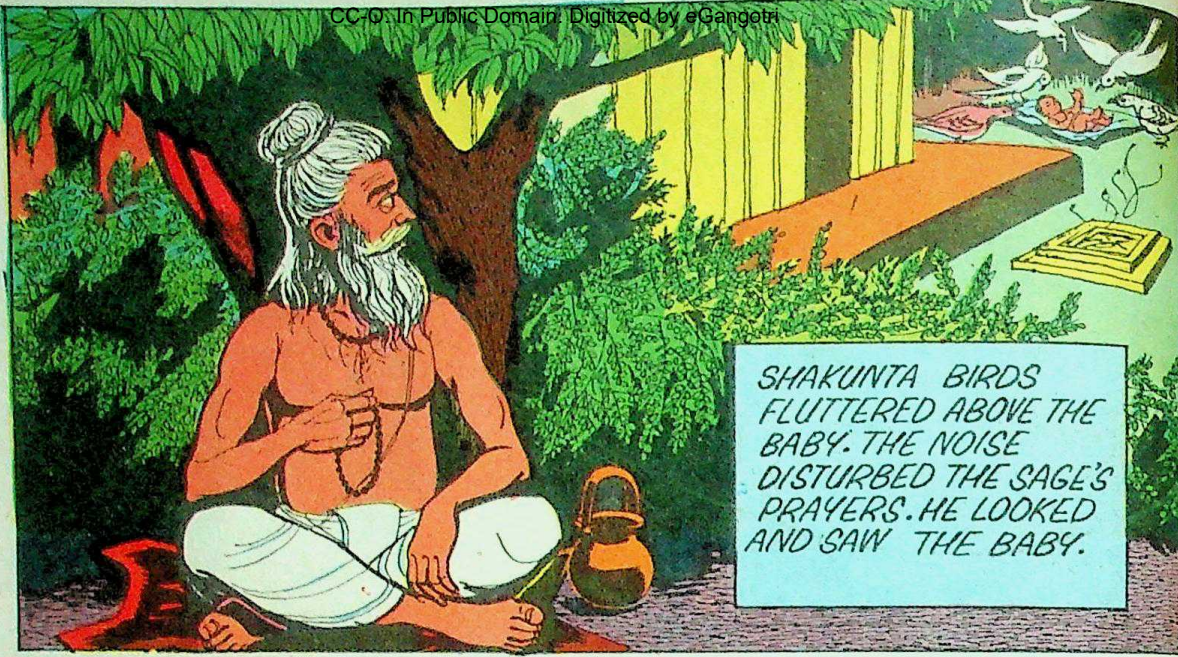


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SHAKUNTALA

*MEENAKA,
A HEAVENLY
NYMPH, LEFT
HER NEW-BORN
BABY NEAR
SAGE KANVA'S
HERMITAGE.*

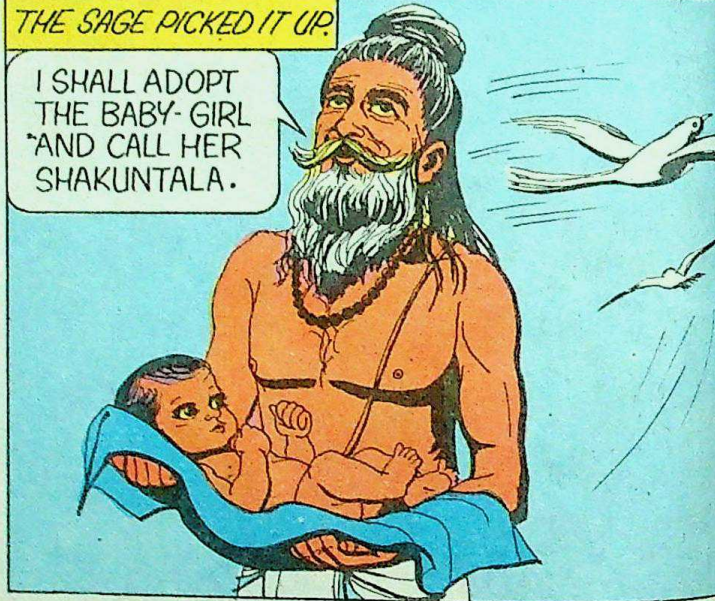


SHAKUNTA BIRDS
FLUTTERED ABOVE THE
BABY. THE NOISE
DISTURBED THE SAGE'S
PRAYERS. HE LOOKED
AND SAW THE BABY.



THE SAGE PICKED IT UP.

I SHALL ADOPT
THE BABY-GIRL
AND CALL HER
SHAKUNTALA.



THE BABY GREW UP
AND MADE FRIENDS
WITH THE ANIMALS
AROUND HER.

SHAKUNTALA, NOW A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, LED A USEFUL LIFE WITH HER FRIENDS PRIYAMVADA AND ANASUYA.

PRIYAMVADA, YOU ARE ALWAYS TEASING ANASUYA.

YOU ARE ALWAYS BUSY SHAKUNTALA. LET US HAVE SOME FUN.



ONE DAY, YOUNG KING DUSHYANT OF HASTINAPUR, CAME TO THAT FOREST TO HUNT.

LOOK ! THERE IS A FINE STAG JUST AHEAD OF US.

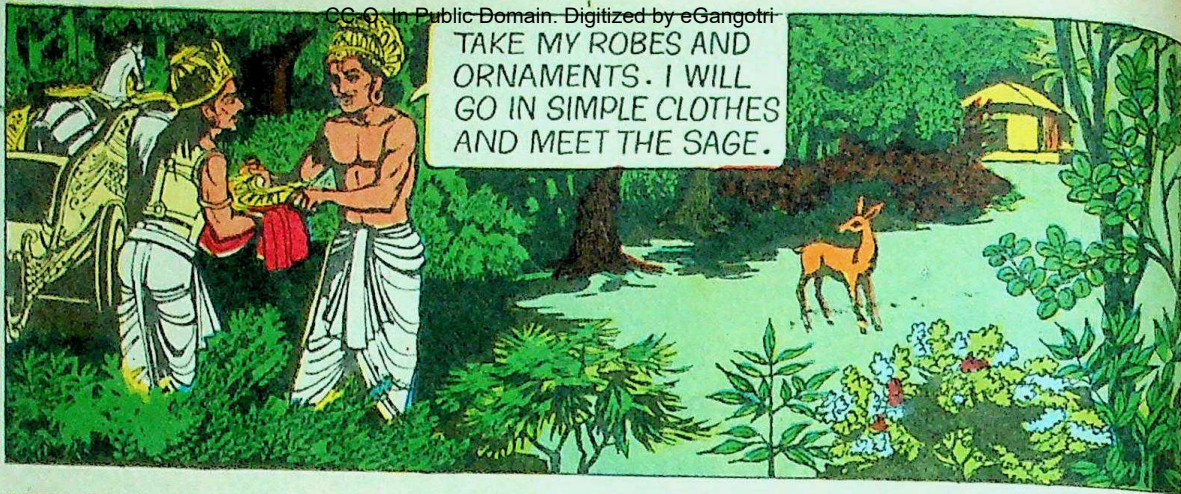
WE WILL GO LIKE THE WIND AND HUNT IT DOWN.



I SHALL HUNT NO MORE, BUT GO FOR THE BLESSING OF THE SAGE.

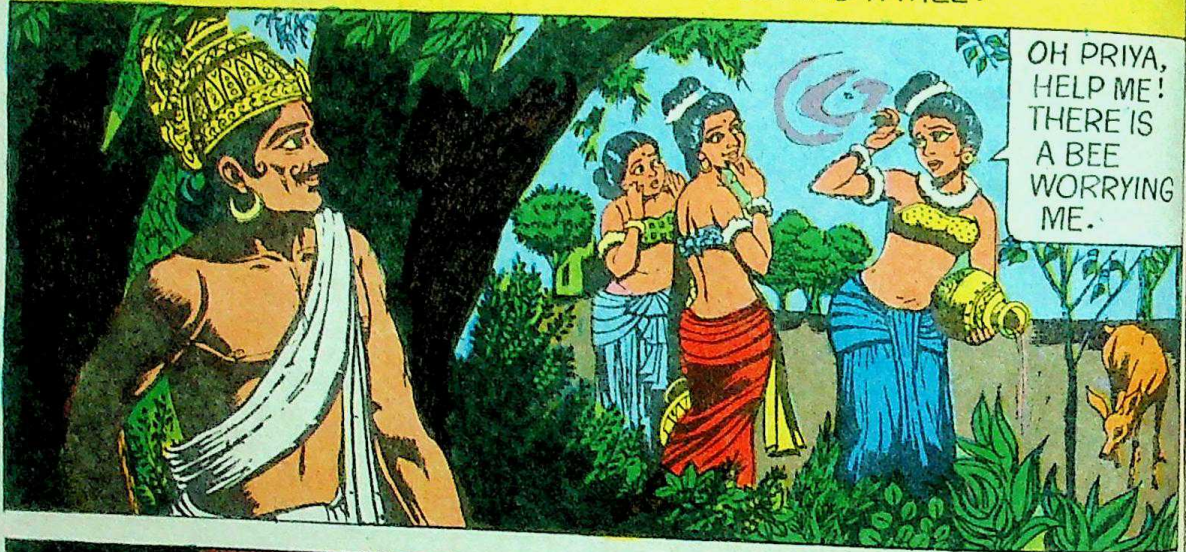
STOP! THE FAWN BELONGS TO SAGE KANVA.



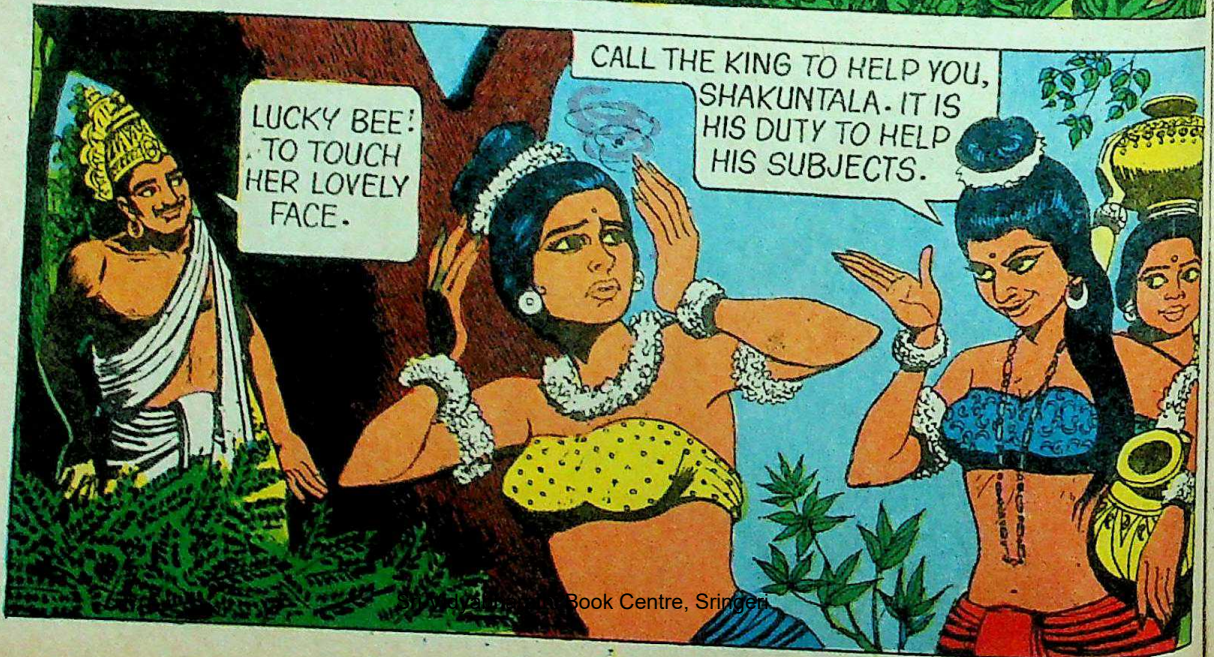


TAKE MY ROBES AND ORNAMENTS. I WILL GO IN SIMPLE CLOTHES AND MEET THE SAGE.

WHEN THE KING HEARD VOICES, HE HID BEHIND A TREE.

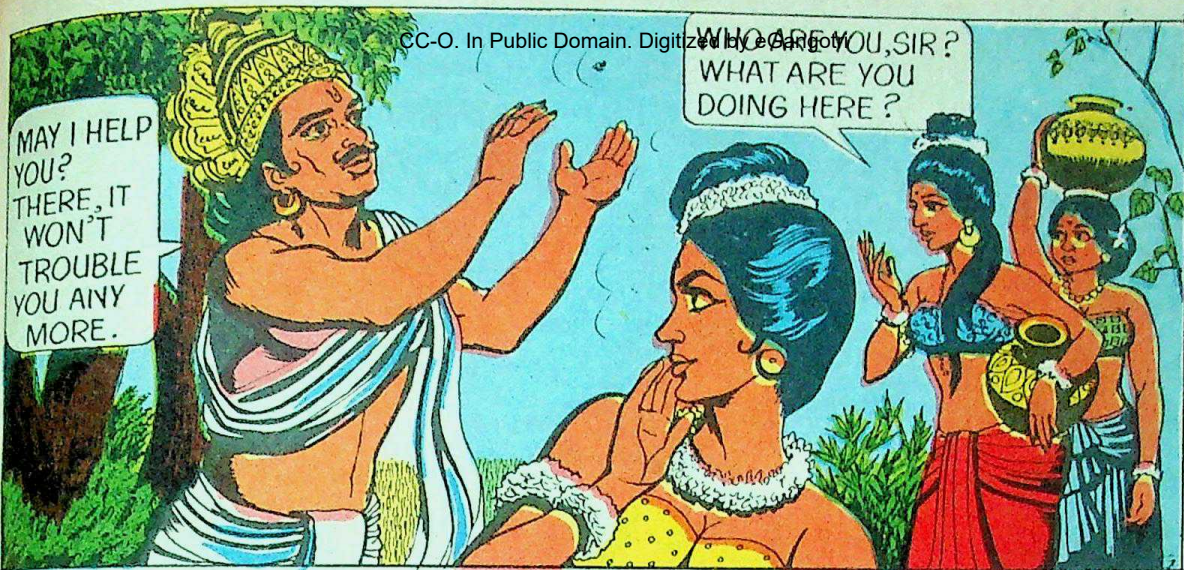


OH PRIYA, HELP ME! THERE IS A BEE WORRYING ME.



LUCKY BEE! TO TOUCH HER LOVELY FACE.

CALL THE KING TO HELP YOU, SHAKUNTALA. IT IS HIS DUTY TO HELP HIS SUBJECTS.



MAY I HELP YOU?
THERE, IT
WON'T
TROUBLE
YOU ANY
MORE.

WHO ARE YOU, SIR?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?



I HAVE BEEN SENT BY THE
KING TO SEE WHAT IS
GOING ON IN HIS
KINGDOM.

THE SAGE HAS GONE ON A
JOURNEY BUT
WON'T
YOU BE
OUR
GUEST?



FEELING SHY, SHAKUNTALA TRIED TO GO AWAY.

SHAKUNTALA, WHAT DO I GET
FOR WATERING YOUR PLANTS?

TAKE MY
RING. LET
IT SERVE
AS YOUR
REWARD.

THE RING HAD THE KING'S SEAL ON IT.



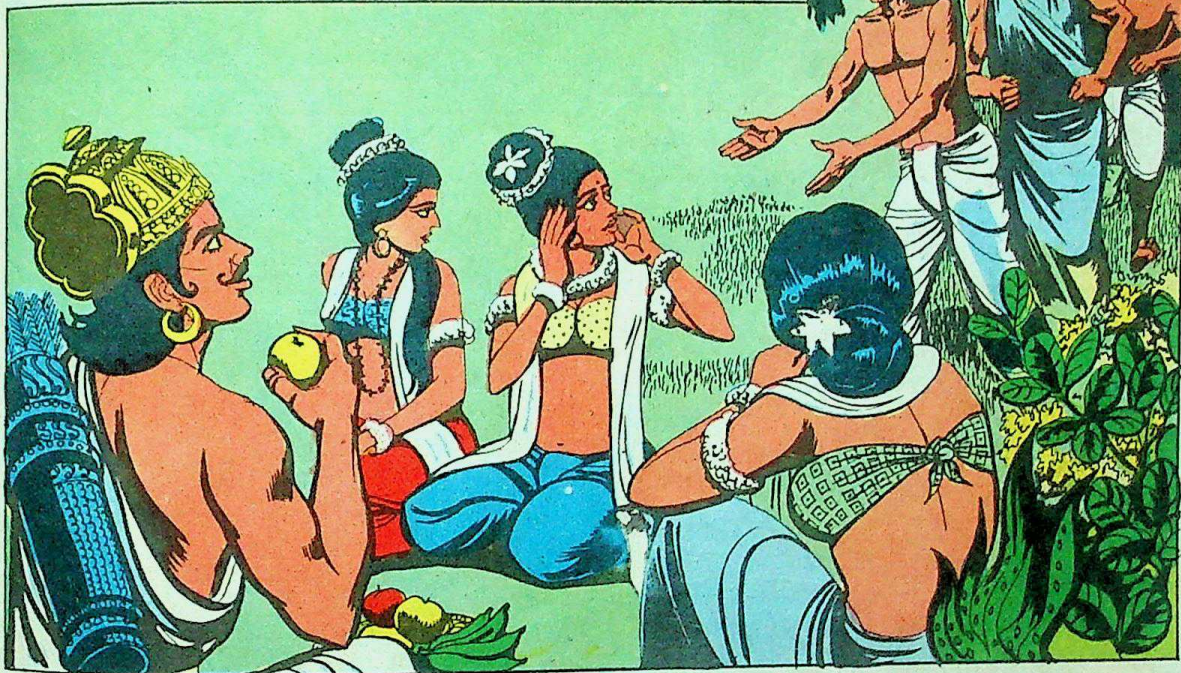


PARDON US, SIR, WE HAVE VERY SIMPLE FOOD TO OFFER YOU.

PLEASE SIT DOWN AND HAVE SOME FRUIT WITH US.

WHILE THE KING WAS EATING, SOME HERMITS CAME ALONG.

WON'T YOU PROTECT US FROM THE DEMONS OF THIS FOREST? THEY DISTURB OUR PRAYERS.



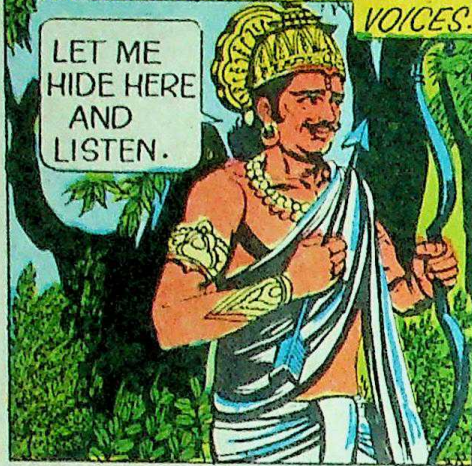
DON'T WORRY, I SHALL REMAIN HERE TILL I DESTROY ALL THE DEMONS.

WE SHALL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO YOU.

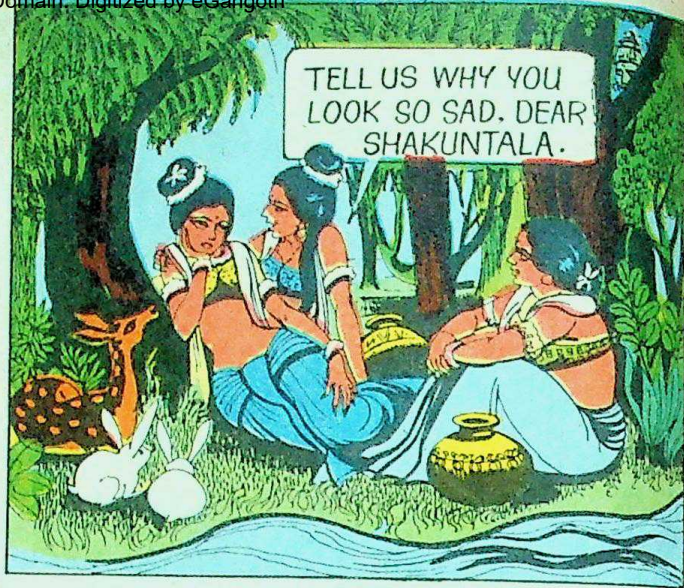


AFTER SOME DAYS WHEN THE KING WAS KEEPING WATCH FOR THE DEMONS, HE HEARD VOICES.

LET ME HIDE HERE AND LISTEN.



TELL US WHY YOU LOOK SO SAD. DEAR SHAKUNTALA.



HOW BRAVE AND GOOD OUR KING IS. I WISH I COULD MARRY A MAN LIKE HIM. BUT I AM ONLY A POOR VILLAGE GIRL.

SINCE YOU ARE SO SHY, WHY DON'T YOU WRITE TO HIM? HERE IS A LOTUS LEAF. WRITE ON IT WITH YOUR NAIL.

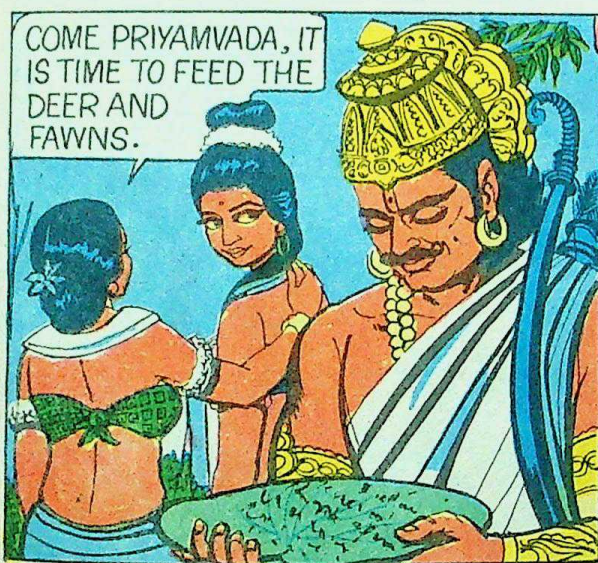
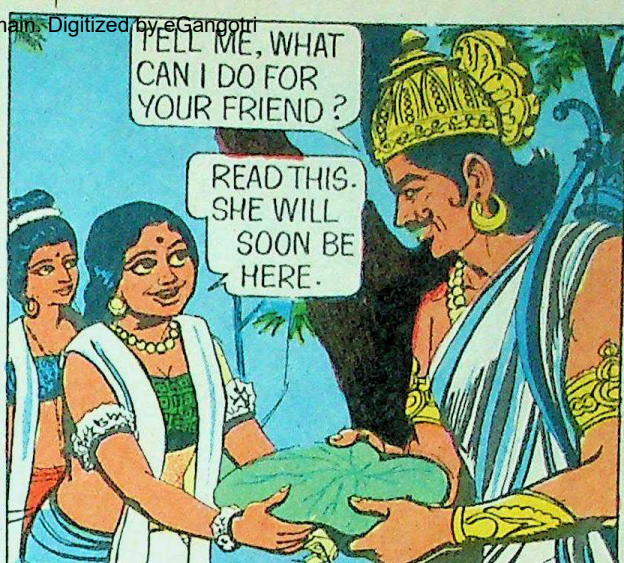


I do not know what you think of me, but I think you are the most wonderful man on earth.



I MUST TAKE THIS LETTER TO THE KING.



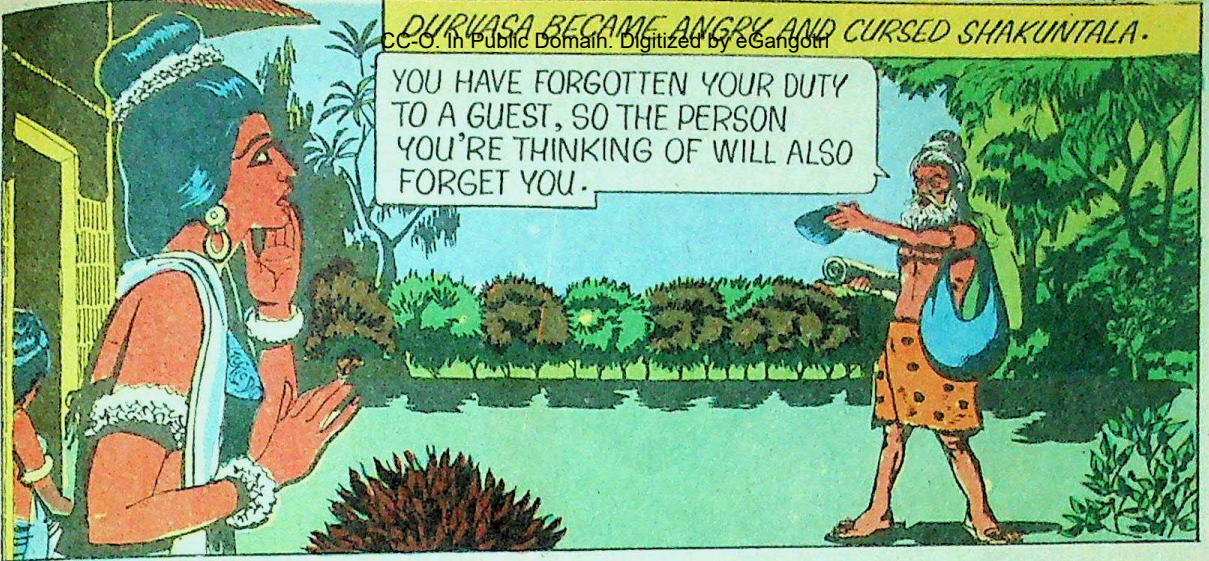


A FEW DAYS LATER, A MESSENGER CAME.

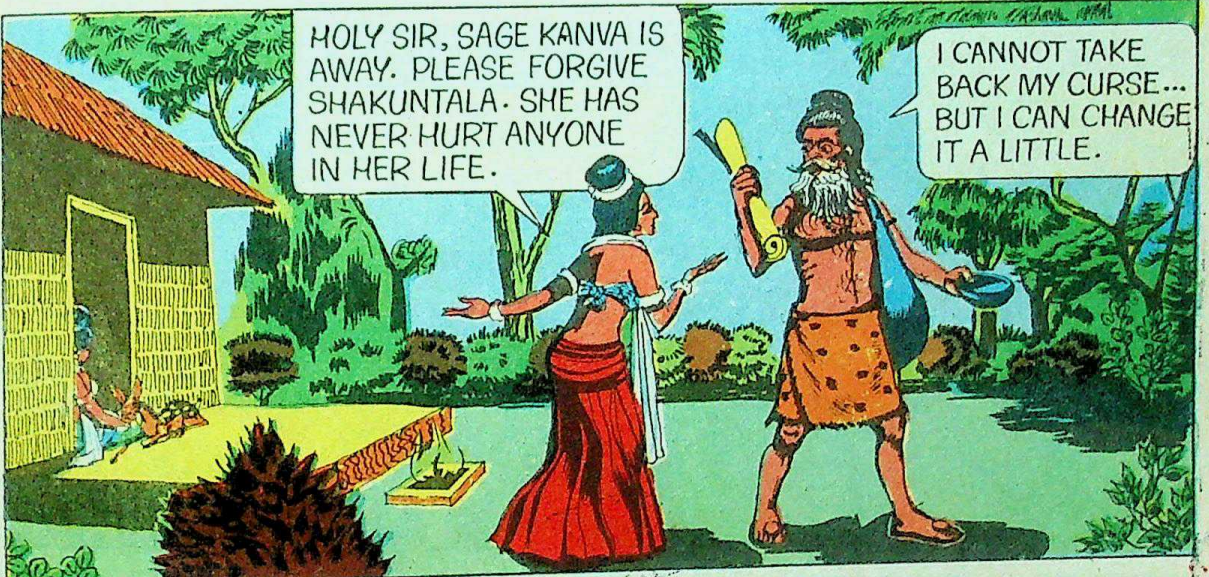


SOMETIME LATER, SAGE DURVASA PAID A VISIT TO THE HERMITAGE. SHAKUNTALA WAS THINKING ABOUT HER HUSBAND.





YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR DUTY
TO A GUEST, SO THE PERSON
YOU'RE THINKING OF WILL ALSO
FORGET YOU.



HOLY SIR, SAGE KANVA IS
AWAY. PLEASE FORGIVE
SHAKUNTALA. SHE HAS
NEVER HURT ANYONE
IN HER LIFE.

I CANNOT TAKE
BACK MY CURSE...
BUT I CAN CHANGE
IT A LITTLE.



THAT PERSON WILL
REMEMBER
SHAKUNTALA, WHEN
HE SEES AN OBJECT
HE HAS GIVEN TO
HER.

THE RING!
SHE WEARS
THE KING'S
RING.

AFTER SOME WEEKS —

OH! WHEN WILL
DUSHYANT
SEND FOR
ME?

IF ONLY FATHER KANVA
WERE HERE, HE WOULD
KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WHEN SAGE KANVA RETURNED TO HIS HERMITAGE, HE HEARD A HEAVENLY VOICE.

"O SAGE, REJOICE! SHAKUN-
TALA IS MARRIED TO A MAN
WORTHY OF HER. SHE WILL
SOON HAVE A SON WHO
WILL BE A GREAT
EMPEROR."

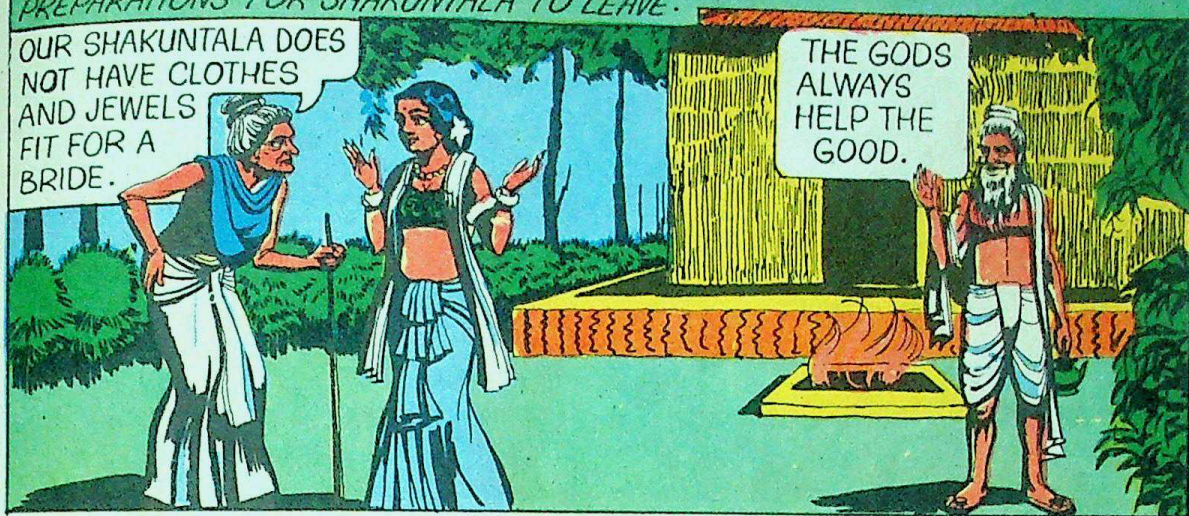
THE SAGE WAS WELCOMED BY THE GIRLS.

I HAVE HEARD THE
GOOD NEWS. NOW WE
MUST SEND YOU TO
YOUR HUSBAND.

GAUTAMI, AN OLD LADY, WAS LIKE A MOTHER TO SHAKUNTALA. SHE MADE PREPARATIONS FOR SHAKUNTALA TO LEAVE.

OUR SHAKUNTALA DOES NOT HAVE CLOTHES AND JEWELS FIT FOR A BRIDE.

THE GODS ALWAYS HELP THE GOOD.



SUDDENLY A MIRACLE HAPPENED.

OH LOOK! WHAT LOVELY CLOTHES ARE HERE!

ON EVERY BRANCH THERE'S A SHINING JEWEL.



OH SHAKUNTALA, HOW LOVELY YOU LOOK IN THESE CLOTHES.

NOW THAT YOU WILL BE LIVING IN A PALACE, YOU WILL FORGET YOUR POOR FRIENDS.



I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU.
I WILL COME TO MEET YOU
OFTEN.



SAD AT PARTING, THE PLANT CLUNG TO
HER. TAKE CARE OF MY FAWN AND ALL
MY OTHER PETS.

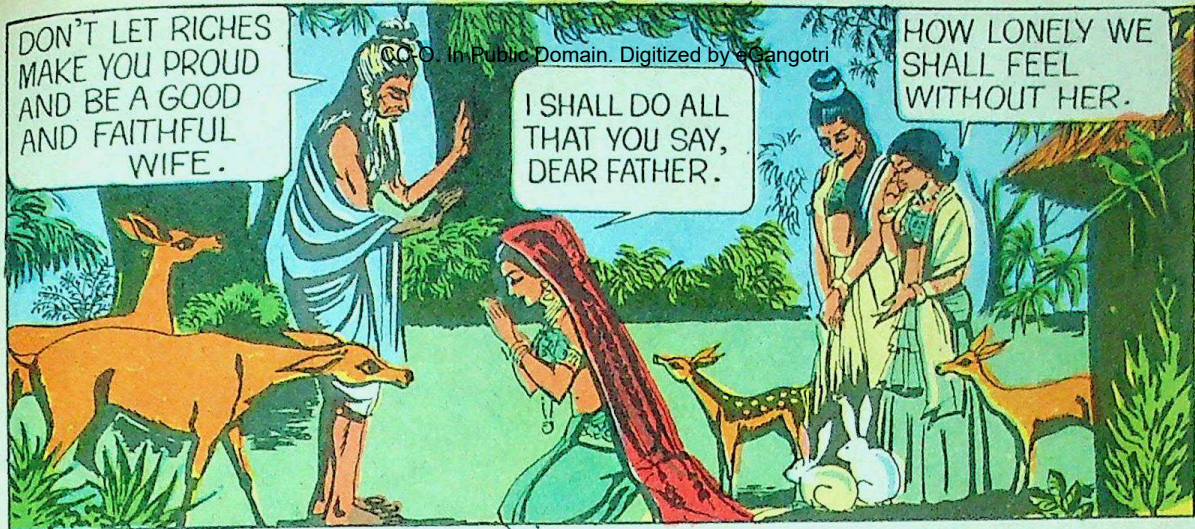


OH CREATURES OF THE
FOREST! SAY GOOD-BYE
TO SHAKUNTALA WHO
ALWAYS LOVED AND
CARED FOR YOU.



FATHER KANVA WAS ALSO SAD. THE TREES SHED TEARS IN THE FORM OF
LEAVES. PEACOCKS STOPPED DANCING AND THE DEER FORGOT TO EAT.

DON'T LET RICHES
MAKE YOU PROUD
AND BE A GOOD
AND FAITHFUL
WIFE.



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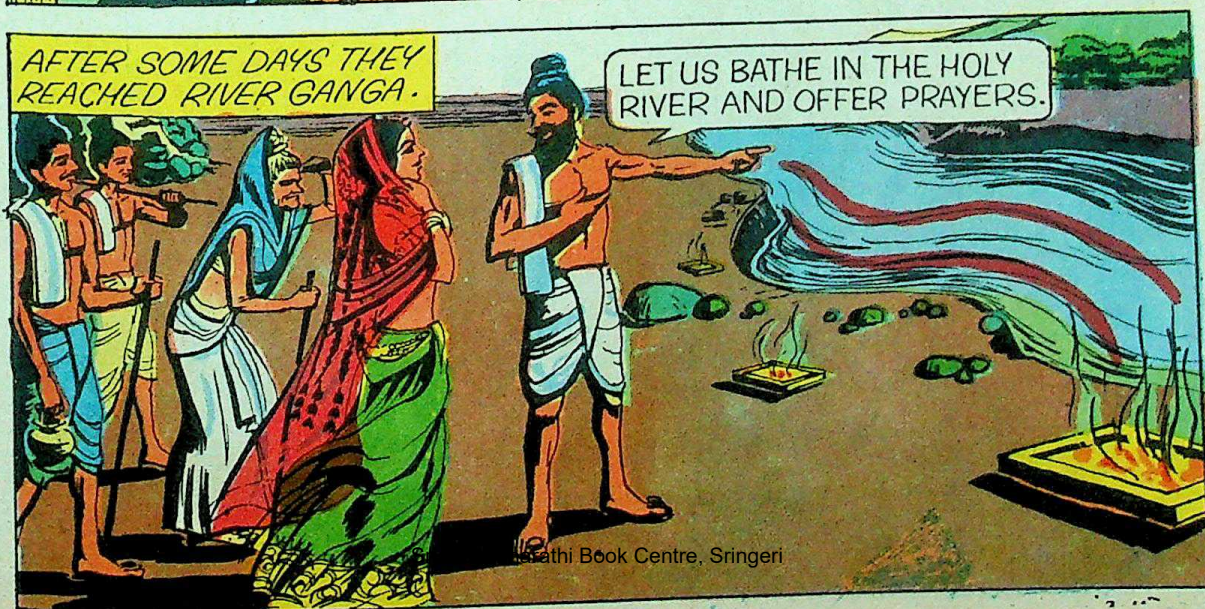
I SHALL DO ALL
THAT YOU SAY,
DEAR FATHER.

HOW LONELY WE
SHALL FEEL
WITHOUT HER.



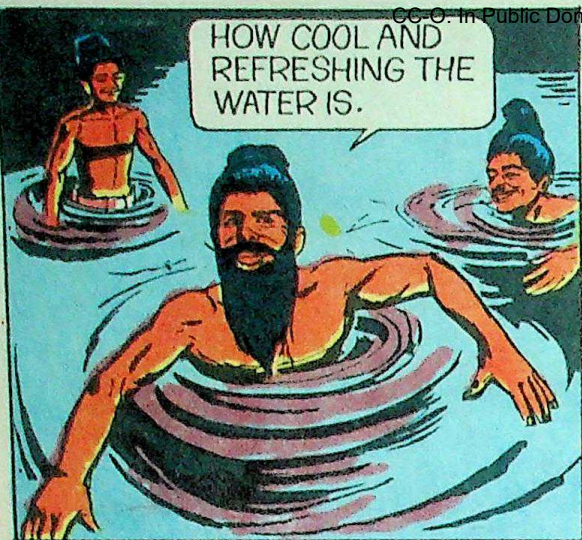
GOOD-BYE SHAKUNTALA. DO
LOOK AFTER THE RING
THE KING HAS GIVEN
YOU.

AFTER SOME DAYS THEY
REACHED RIVER GANGA.

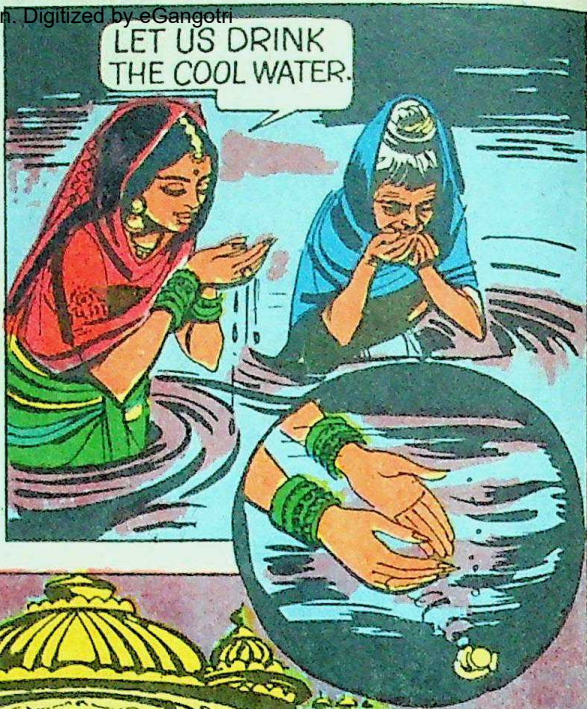


LET US BATHE IN THE HOLY
RIVER AND OFFER PRAYERS.

HOW COOL AND
REFRESHING THE
WATER IS.



LET US DRINK
THE COOL WATER.



AFTER A WHILE THEY
ENTERED THE CITY OF
HASTINAPUR.



THERE IS THE
PALACE. WE
HAVE ARRIVED
AT LAST.

DURVASA'S CURSE HAD WORKED. THE KING HAD FORGOTTEN SHAKUNTALA.

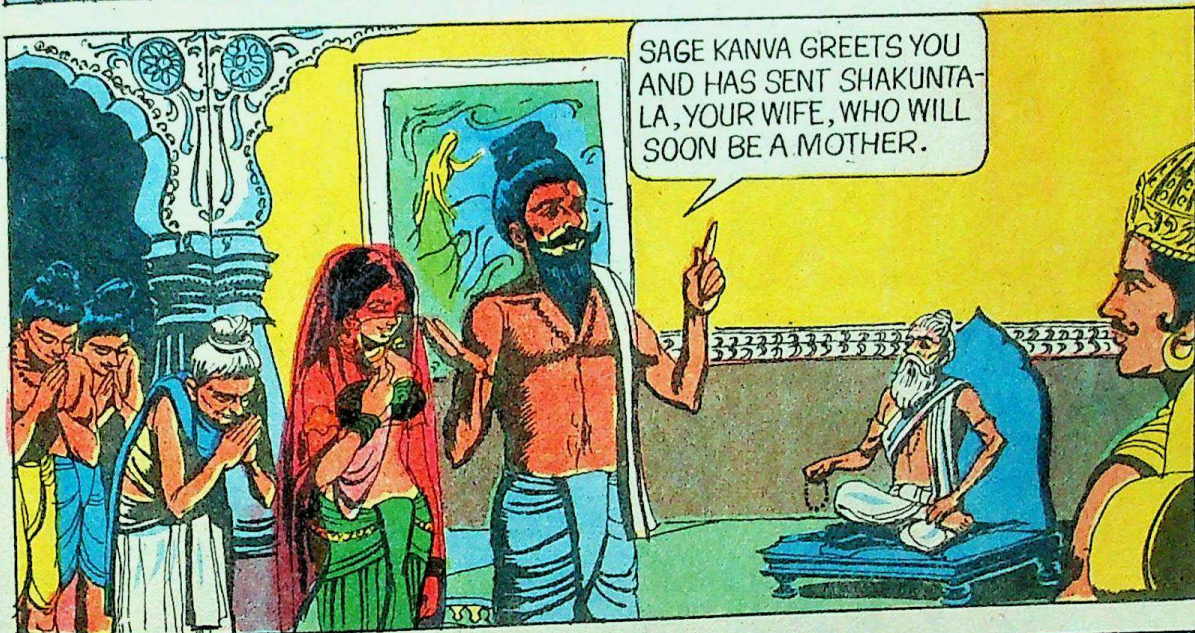
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I WONDER WHAT THEY WANT WITH ME. SHOW THEM IN.

YOUR MAJESTY, SOME INMATES OF SAGE KANVA'S ASHRAM HAVE COME TO SEE YOU.

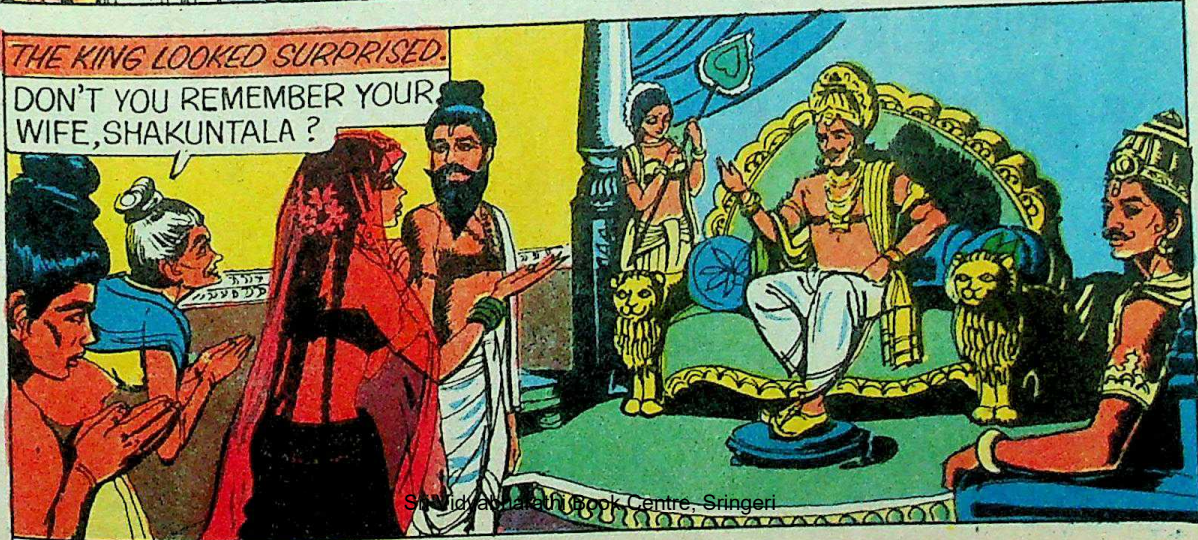


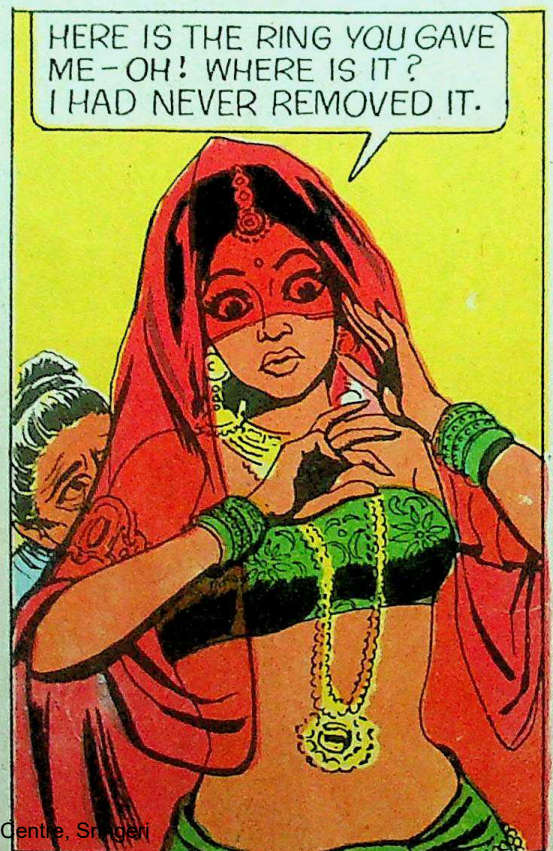
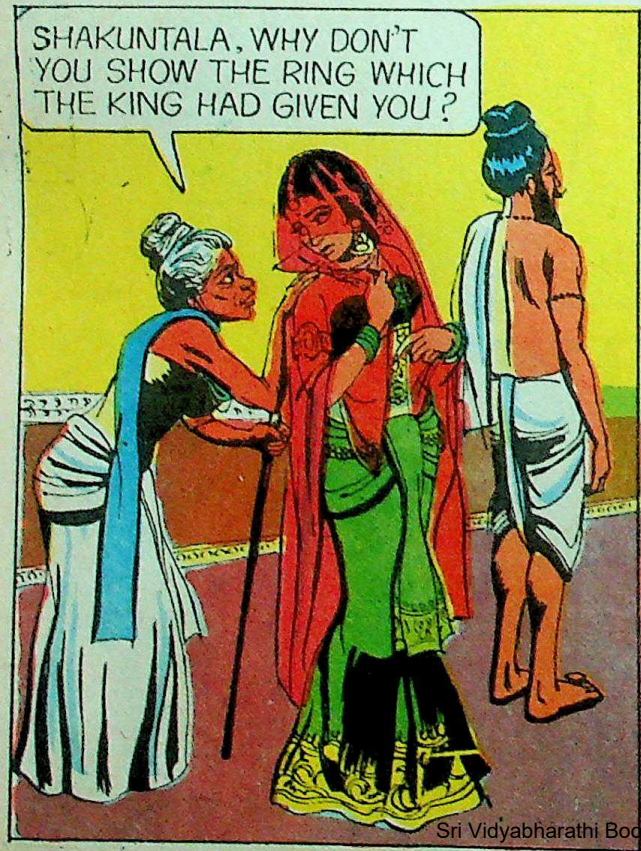
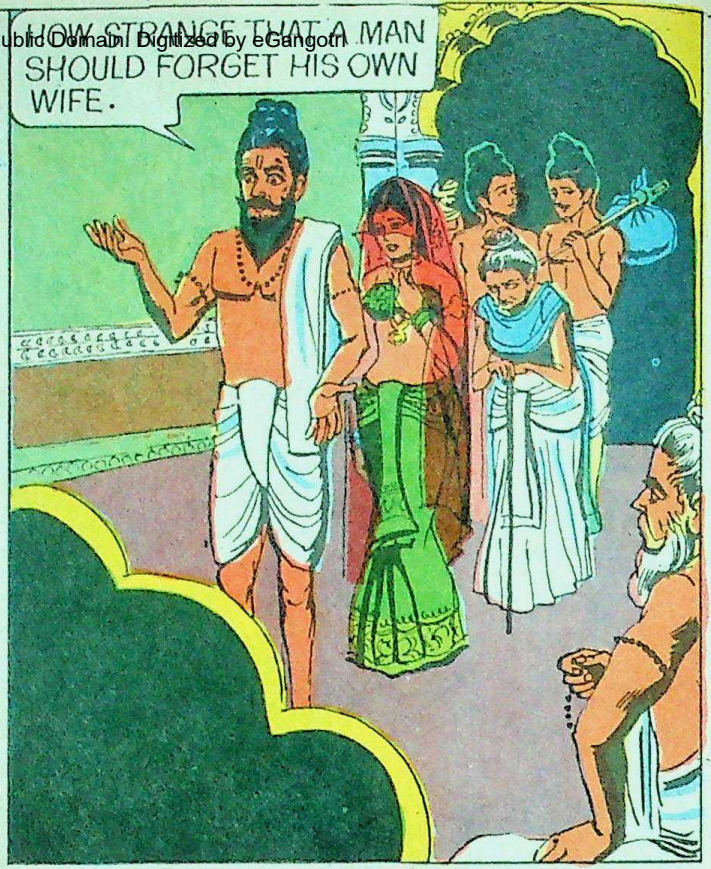
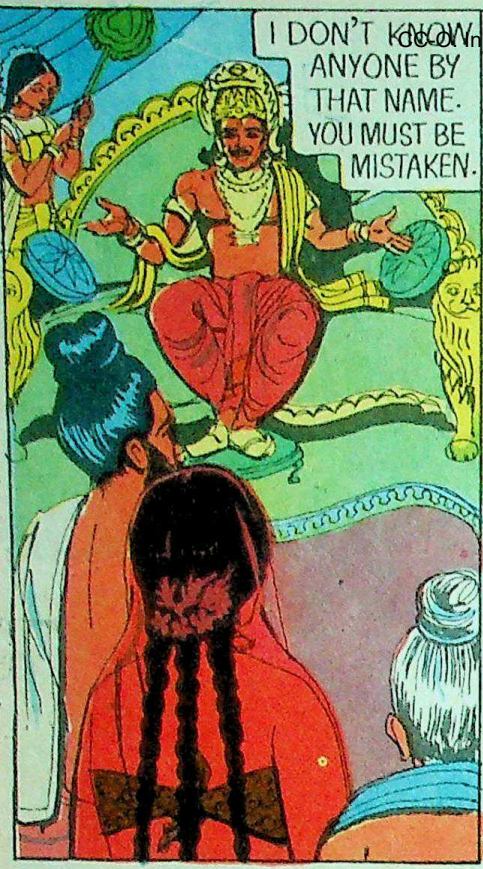
SAGE KANVA GREETES YOU AND HAS SENT SHAKUNTALA, YOUR WIFE, WHO WILL SOON BE A MOTHER.



THE KING LOOKED SURPRISED.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER YOUR WIFE, SHAKUNTALA?

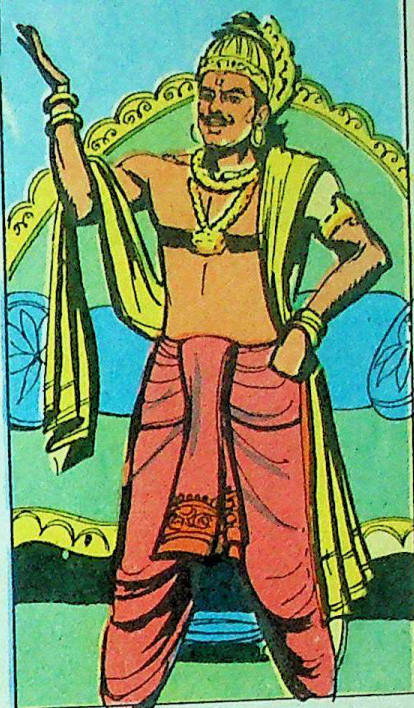




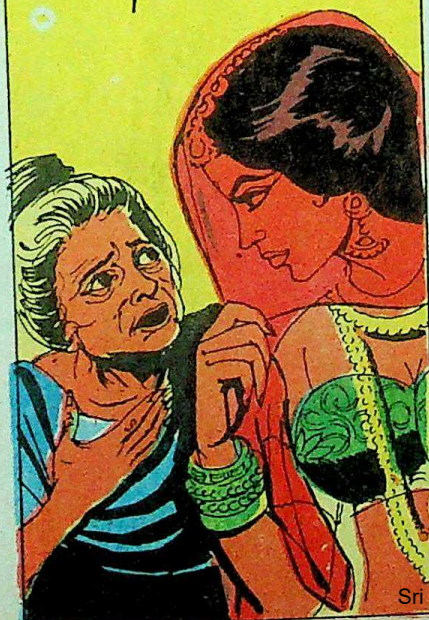
THE RING MUST HAVE FALLEN
SOMEWHERE. LET US LOOK FOR IT.

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I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE
TALKING ABOUT.



SHAKUNTALA, RAISE
YOUR VEIL. THE KING
WILL SURELY REMEMBER
YOU WHEN HE SEES
YOUR FACE.

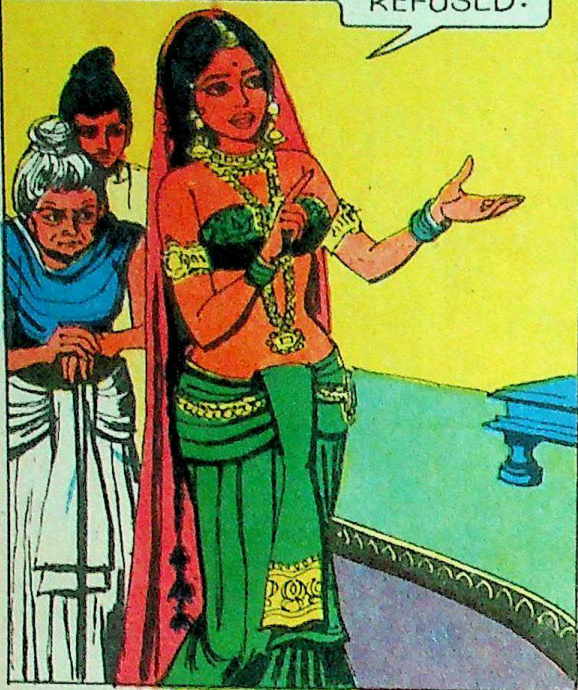


YOUR FACE IS
INDEED LOVELY
BUT I HAVE
NEVER SEEN
YOU BEFORE.

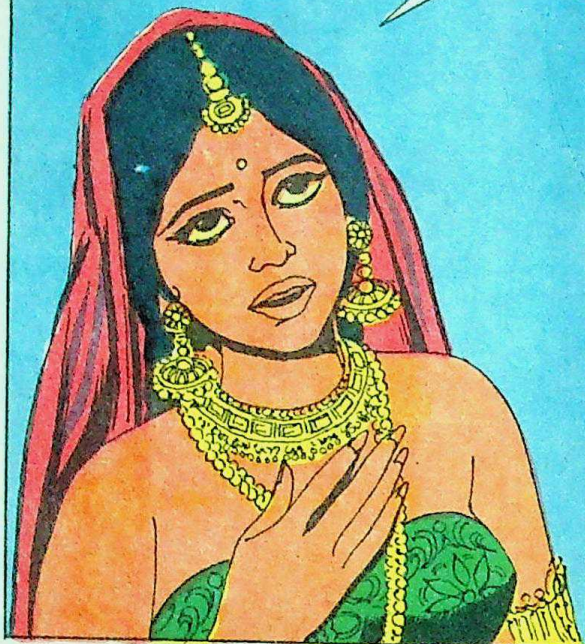


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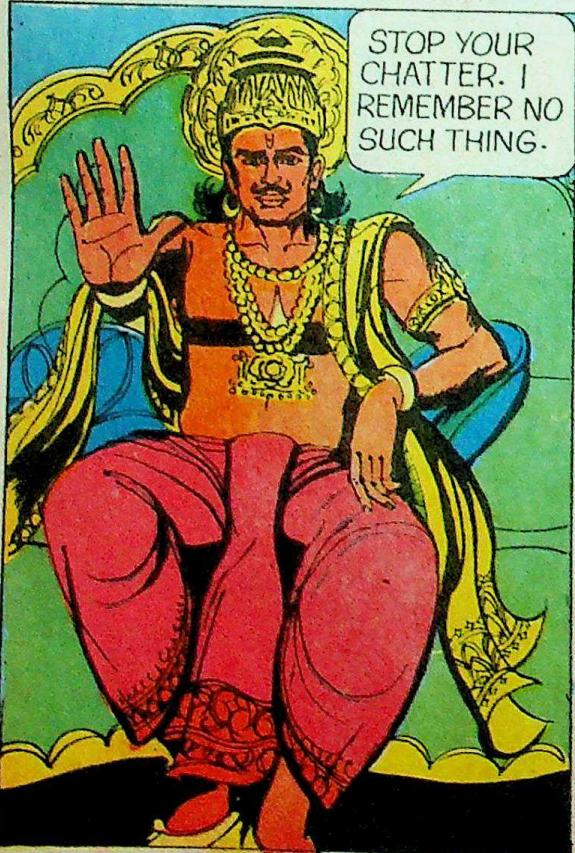
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW ONE DAY
YOU COLLECTED RAIN-WATER IN A
LOTUS FLOWER AND GAVE IT TO
MY PET FAWN TO DRINK BUT SHE
REFUSED.



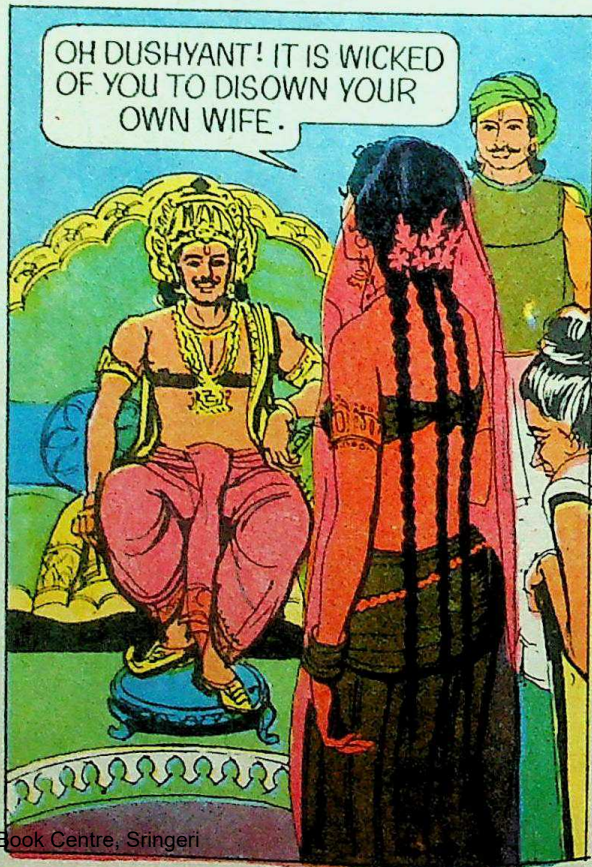
YET WHEN I OFFERED IT, SHE DRANK
IT GLADLY. SO YOU SAID — YOU ARE
BOTH CHILDREN OF THE FOREST
AND TRUST EACH OTHER... AND...



STOP YOUR
CHATTER. I
REMEMBER NO
SUCH THING.



OH DUSHYANT! IT IS WICKED
OF YOU TO DISOWN YOUR
OWN WIFE.



IT IS NO USE - LET US GO BACK TO THE HERMITAGE AND TAKE SHAKUNTALA WITH US.

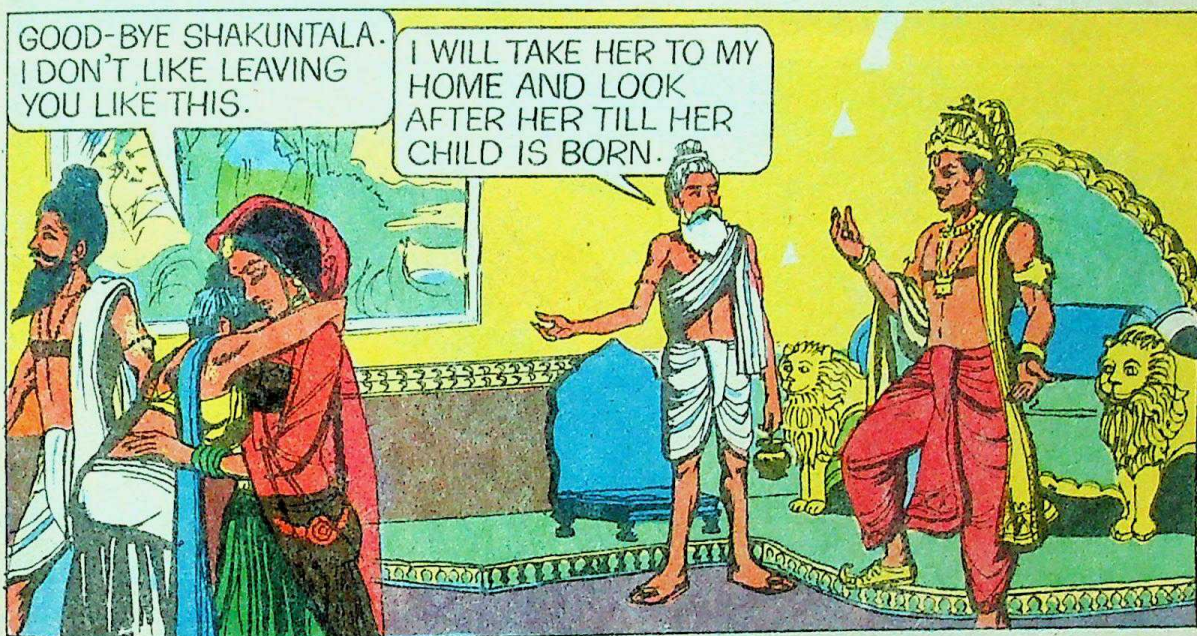
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OH NO! A WIFE'S PLACE IS WITH HER HUSBAND. WE MUST LEAVE HER BEHIND.

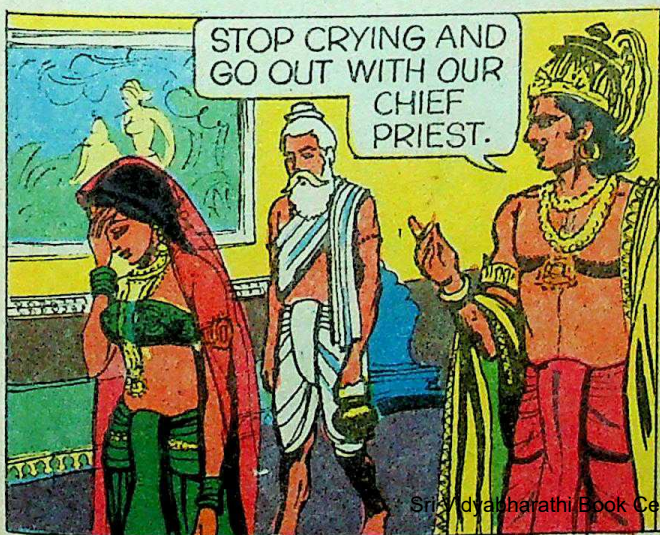


GOOD-BYE SHAKUNTALA. I DON'T LIKE LEAVING YOU LIKE THIS.

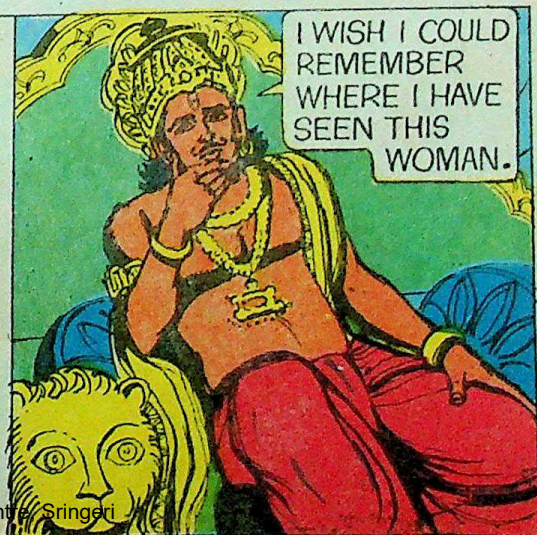
I WILL TAKE HER TO MY HOME AND LOOK AFTER HER TILL HER CHILD IS BORN.



STOP CRYING AND GO OUT WITH OUR CHIEF PRIEST.



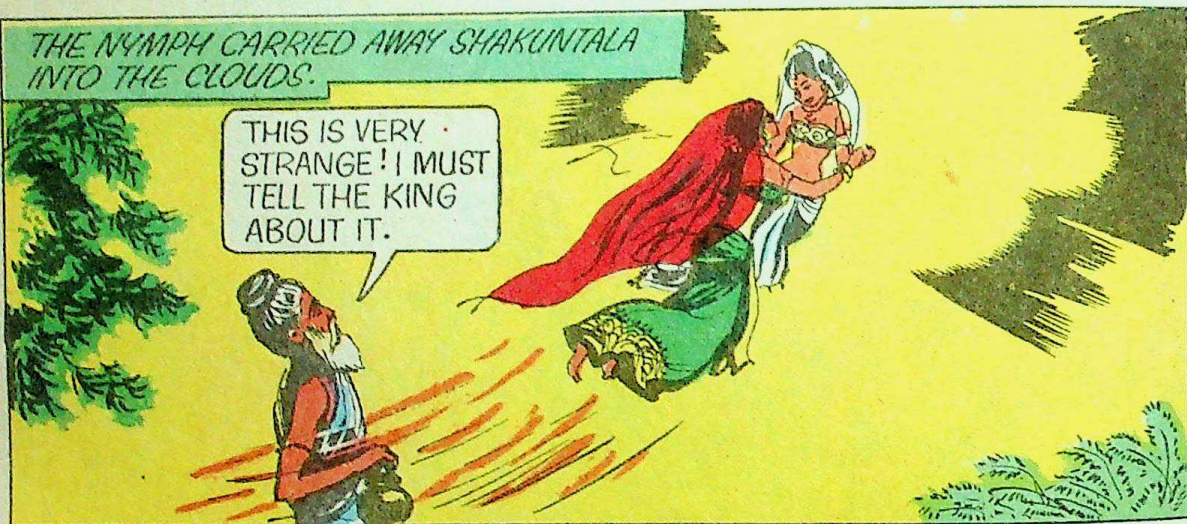
I WISH I COULD REMEMBER WHERE I HAVE SEEN THIS WOMAN.



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SUDDENLY THERE WAS A CRASH IN THE SKY.
SHAKUNTALA'S MOTHER APPEARED.



THE NYMPH CARRIED AWAY SHAKUNTALA
INTO THE CLOUDS.



A FEW DAYS LATER A FISHERMAN
WAS ARRESTED IN THE BAZAAR.

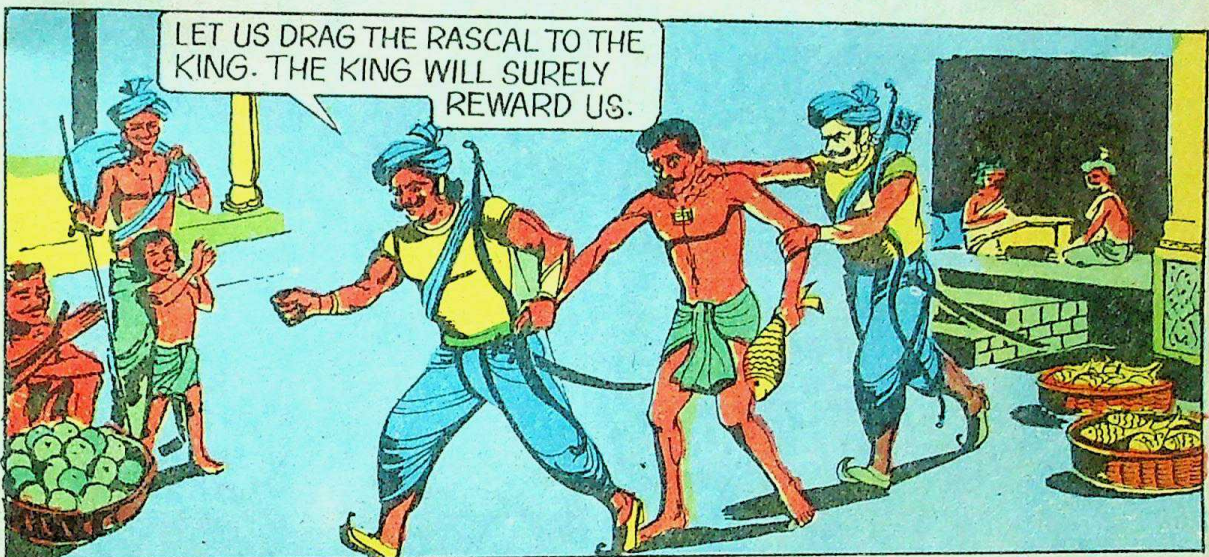


I SUPPOSE THE RING IS A PRESENT TO
YOU FROM THE KING HIMSELF. HA! HA!
HA!

LIAR! TAKE THAT
AND THAT.

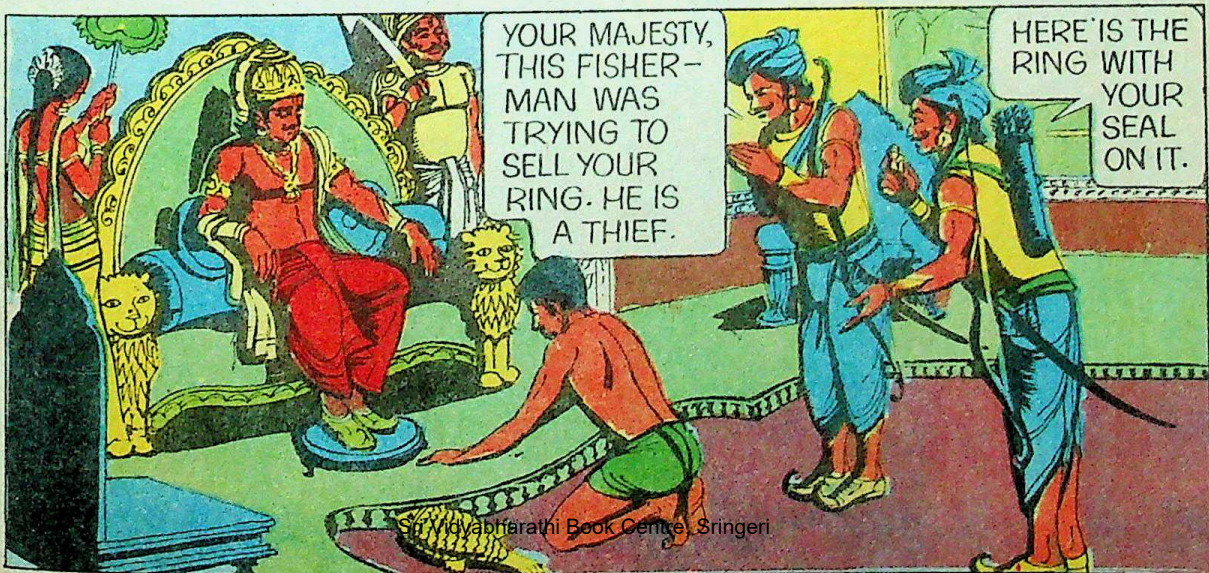


LET US DRAG THE RASCAL TO THE
KING. THE KING WILL SURELY
REWARD US.



YOUR MAJESTY,
THIS FISHER-
MAN WAS
TRYING TO
SELL YOUR
RING. HE IS
A THIEF.

HERE'S THE RING WITH
YOUR
SEAL
ON IT.



OH KING, DO NOT KILL ME. I AM
TELLING THE TRUTH. I FOUND
THIS RING IN THE BODY OF
A FISH I CAUGHT TODAY.



OH NOW I REMEMBER EVERYTHING.
THIS IS THE RING I HAD GIVEN TO
SHAKUNTALA,
MY WIFE,
WHEN I
LEFT HER.

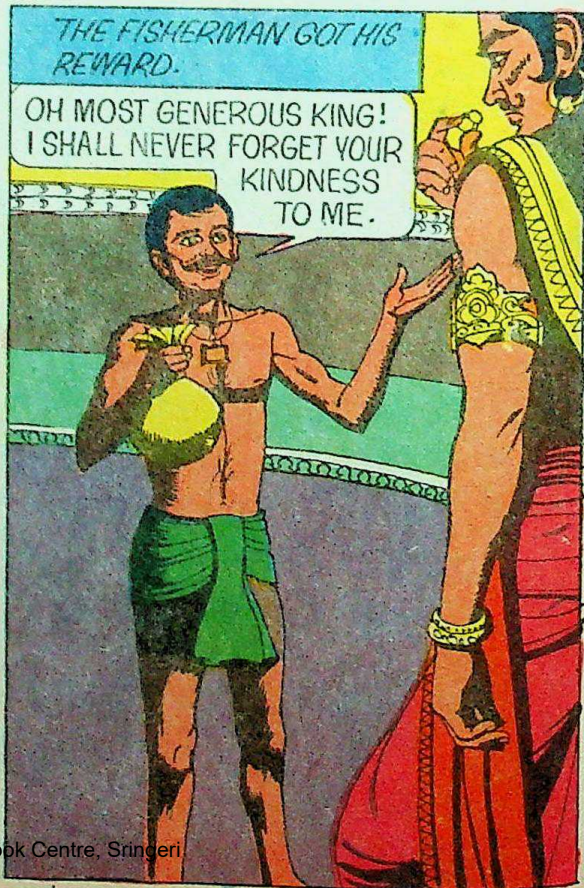


GIVE THE FISHERMAN
A BAG OF GOLD FOR
HE HAS DONE ME
A GREAT SERVICE.



THE FISHERMAN GOT HIS
REWARD.

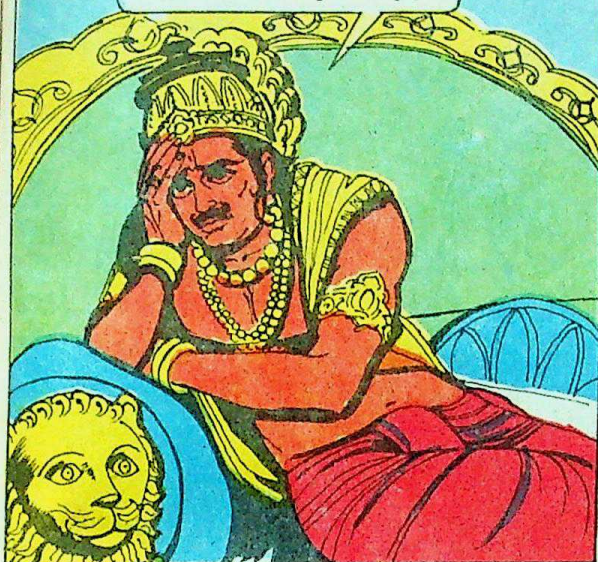
OH MOST GENEROUS KING!
I SHALL NEVER FORGET YOUR
KINDNESS
TO ME.



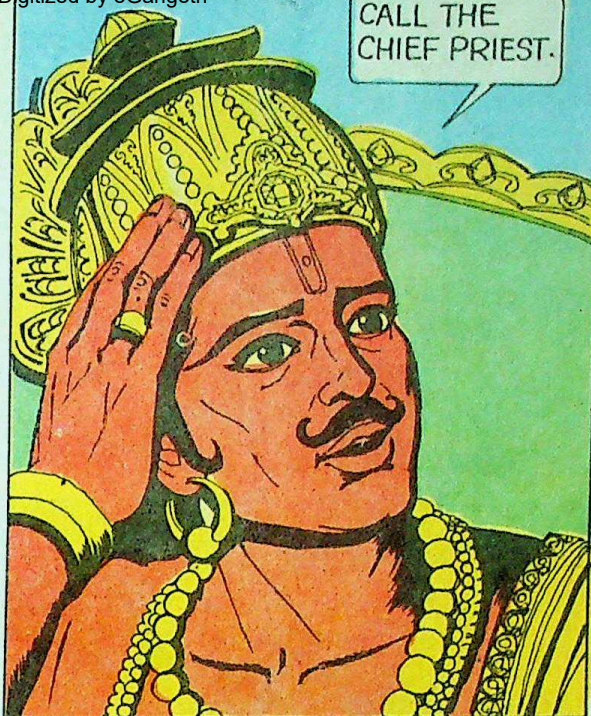
THE KING WAS VERY SAD.

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OH SHAKUNTALA ! HOW
CRUELLY I HAVE
TREATED YOU. HOW
COULD I FORGET YOU ?



CALL THE
CHIEF PRIEST.



WHERE IS MY WIFE
SHAKUNTALA ? WHO
WILL BRING MY
BELOVED BACK TO ME ?

A NYMPH CARRIED
HER AWAY AND
SHE IS LOST
FOR EVER.



TO LESSEN HIS GRIEF, THE KING PAINTED SHAKUNTALA'S PICTURE.

HERE IS LOVELY SHAKUNTALA IN THE GARDEN.
HERE IS HER JASMINE CREEPER AND THERE IS
HER PET FAWN...

FOR A FEW YEARS THE KING LED A QUIET LIFE THINKING OF
SHAKUNTALA ALL THE TIME. ONE DAY—

GOD INDRA HAS SENT
MATALI WITH A
MESSAGE.

SHOW
HIM IN.

THE GODS WANT
YOUR HELP IN A
WAR AGAINST
THE DEMONS.

I AM READY
TO HELP.

A TERRIBLE WAR WAS FOUGHT BETWEEN THE DEMONS AND THE GODS.



THE GODS WON THE WAR AND DUSHYANT CAME BACK TO EARTH IN MATALI'S FLYING CHARIOT.

WHAT LOVELY
SCENERY!
HOW HAPPY THE
CREATURES OF
THE EARTH
LOOK. I ALONE
AM UNHAPPY.



GOOD-BYE
DUSHYANT!
MAY THE
GODS
REWARD YOU
FOR YOUR
BRAVERY.



WHERE AM I? THIS IS A STRANGE
PLACE WHICH I HAVE NEVER
SEEN BEFORE.

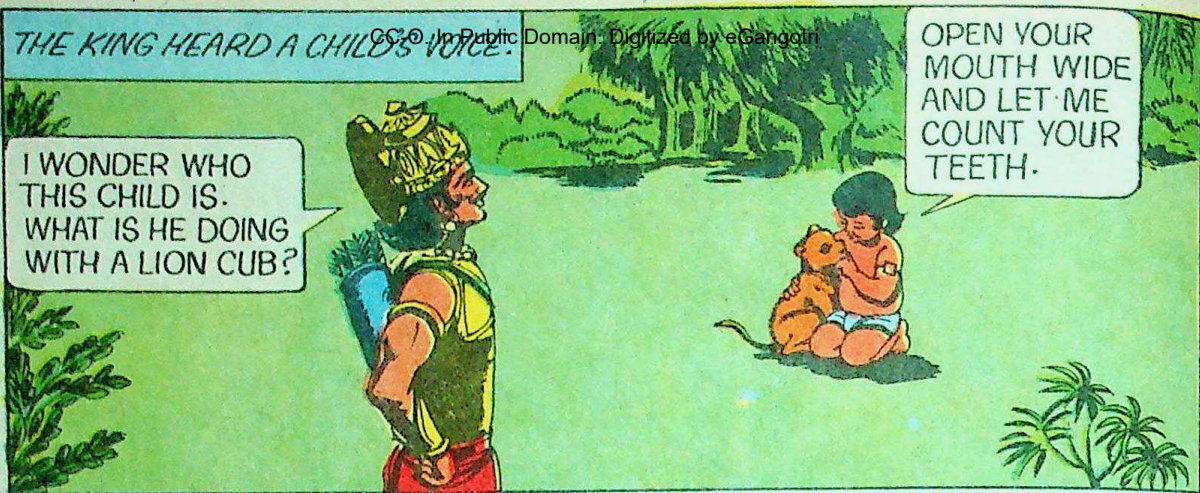


THE KING HEARD A CHILD'S VOICE.

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OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND LET ME COUNT YOUR TEETH.

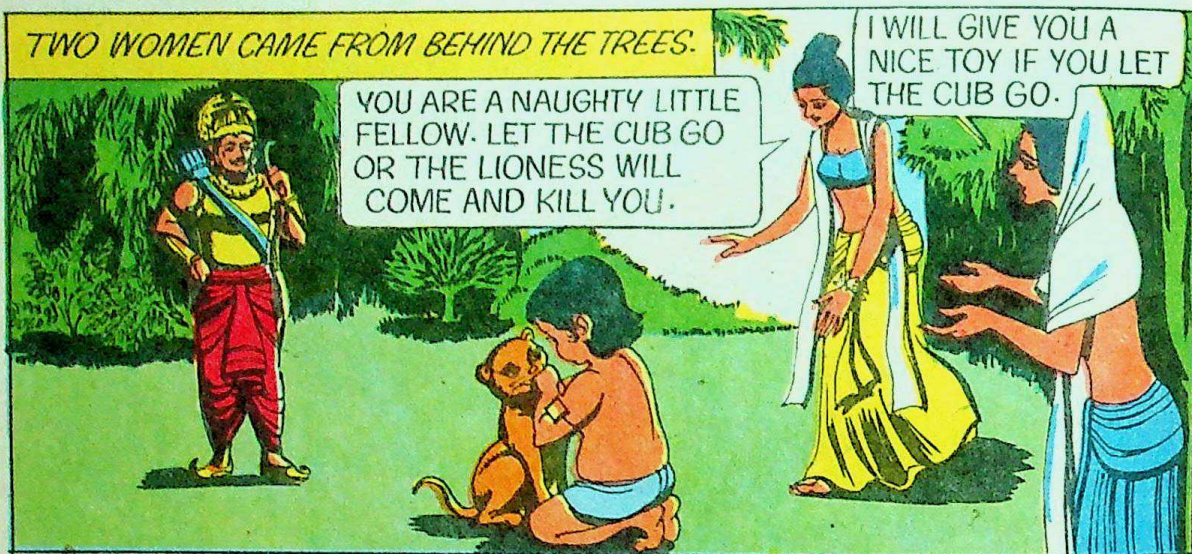
I WONDER WHO THIS CHILD IS. WHAT IS HE DOING WITH A LION CUB?



TWO WOMEN CAME FROM BEHIND THE TREES.

YOU ARE A NAUGHTY LITTLE FELLOW. LET THE CUB GO OR THE LIONESS WILL COME AND KILL YOU.

I WILL GIVE YOU A NICE TOY IF YOU LET THE CUB GO.

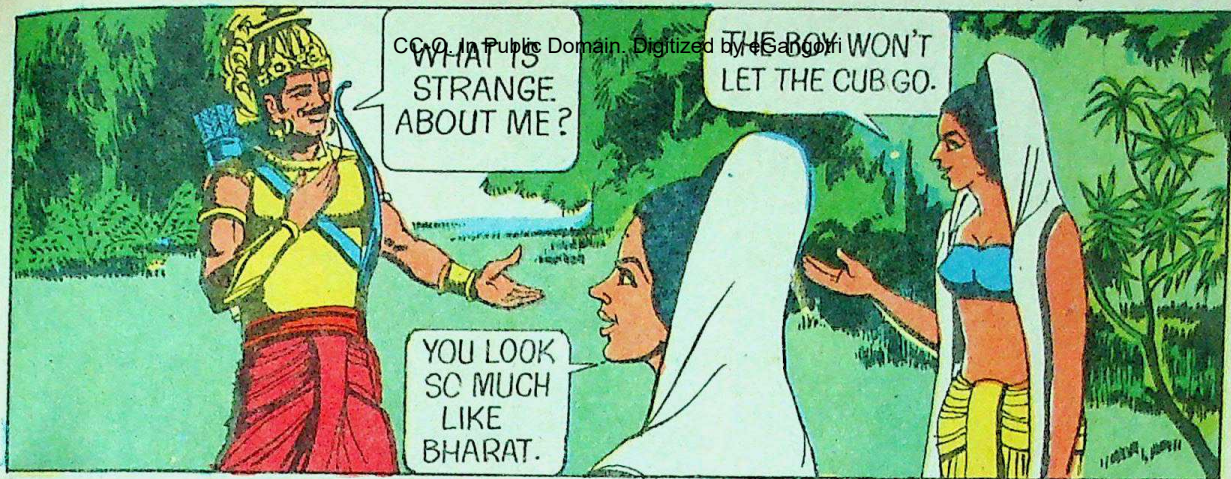


WHAT A BRAVE AND HAND-SOME BOY HE IS!

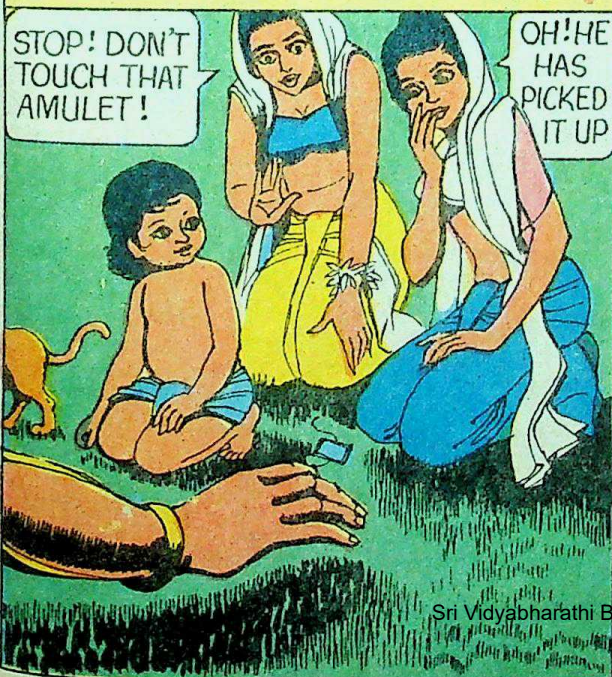
GIVE ME THE TOY FIRST AND THEN WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THE CUB.

STRANGE! VERY STRANGE!





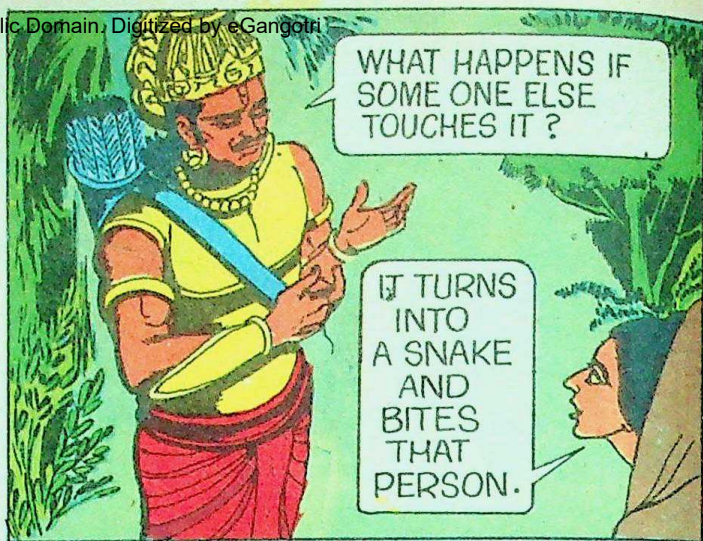
THE KING REACHED OUT FOR THE AMULET.



IT IS A MAGIC AMULET GIVEN BY SAGE MARICHA. IT WAS TIED ROUND THE CHILD'S ARM TO KEEP HIM FROM HARM. ONLY HIS PARENTS CAN TOUCH IT.

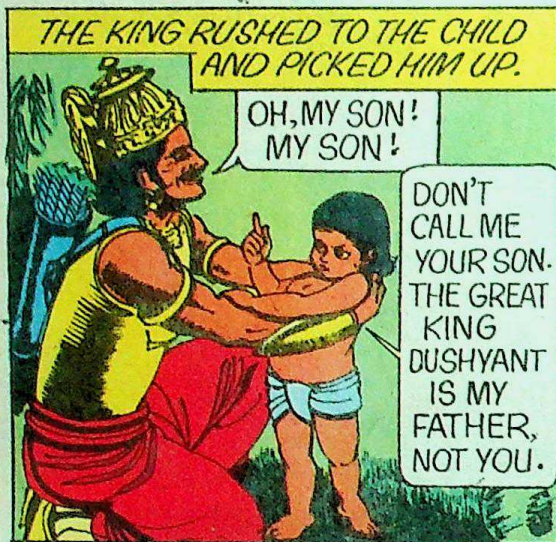


WHAT HAPPENS IF SOME ONE ELSE TOUCHES IT?



IT TURNS INTO A SNAKE AND BITES THAT PERSON.

THE KING RUSHED TO THE CHILD AND PICKED HIM UP.



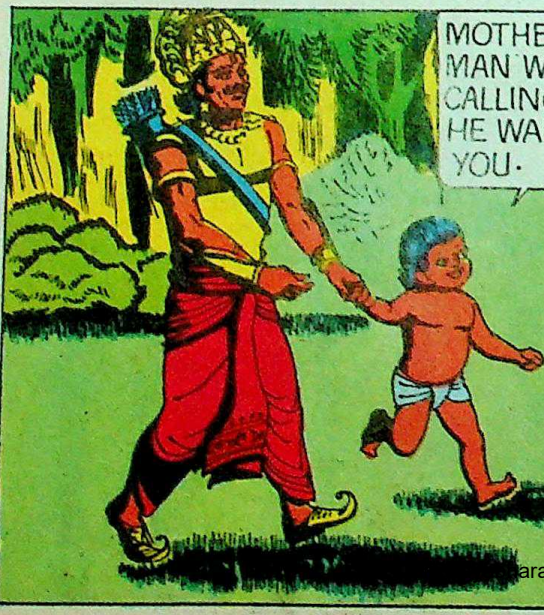
OH, MY SON! MY SON!

DON'T CALL ME YOUR SON. THE GREAT KING DUSHYANT IS MY FATHER, NOT YOU.

LITTLE ONE, TAKE ME TO YOUR MOTHER, SHAKUNTALA. SHE WILL TELL YOU WHO I AM.



MOTHER, HERE'S A MAN WHO KEEPS CALLING ME HIS SON. HE WANTS TO SEE YOU.

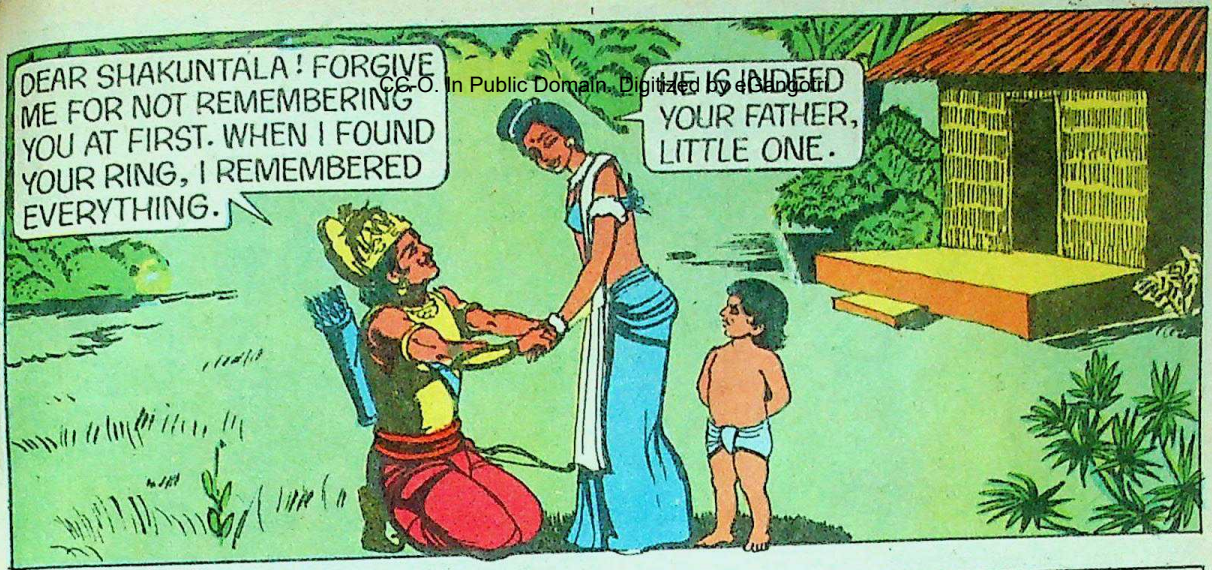


OH DUSHYANT, SO YOU HAVE COME AT LAST.



DEAR SHAKUNTALA! FORGIVE ME FOR NOT REMEMBERING YOU AT FIRST. WHEN I FOUND YOUR RING, I REMEMBERED EVERYTHING.

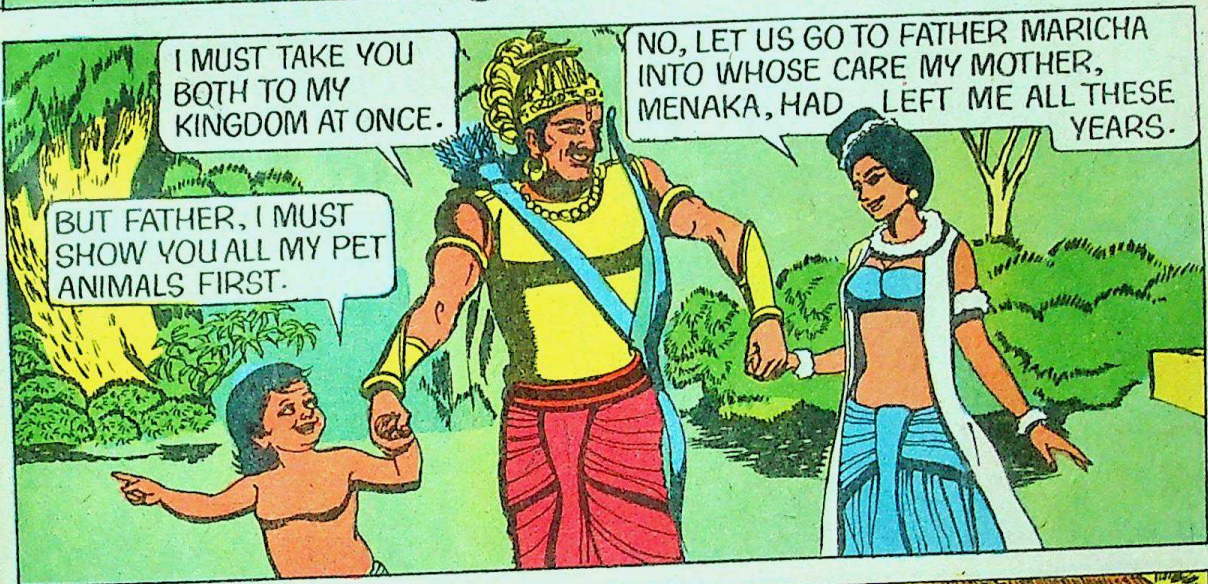
HE IS INDEED YOUR FATHER, LITTLE ONE.



I MUST TAKE YOU BOTH TO MY KINGDOM AT ONCE.

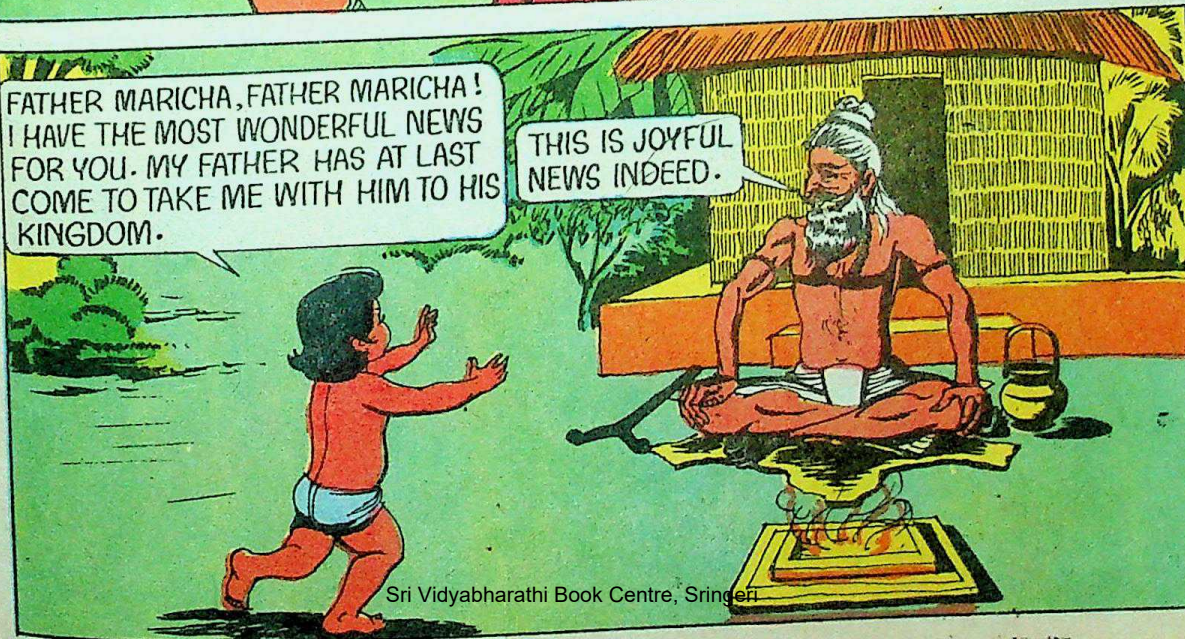
NO, LET US GO TO FATHER MARICHA INTO WHOSE CARE MY MOTHER, MENAKA, HAD LEFT ME ALL THESE YEARS.

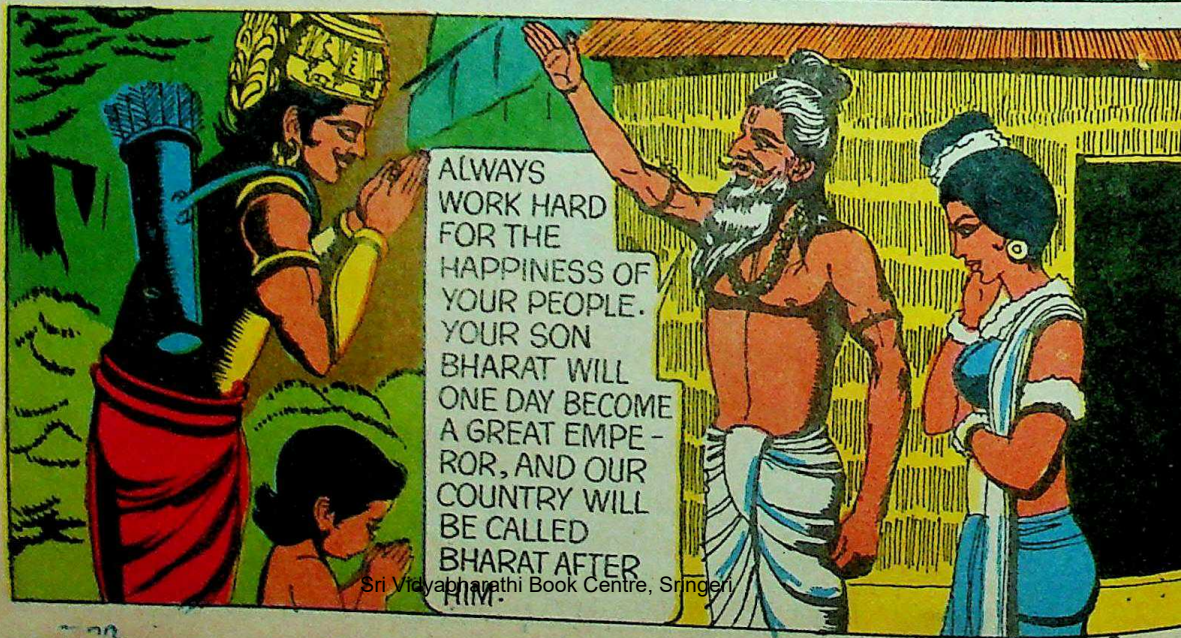
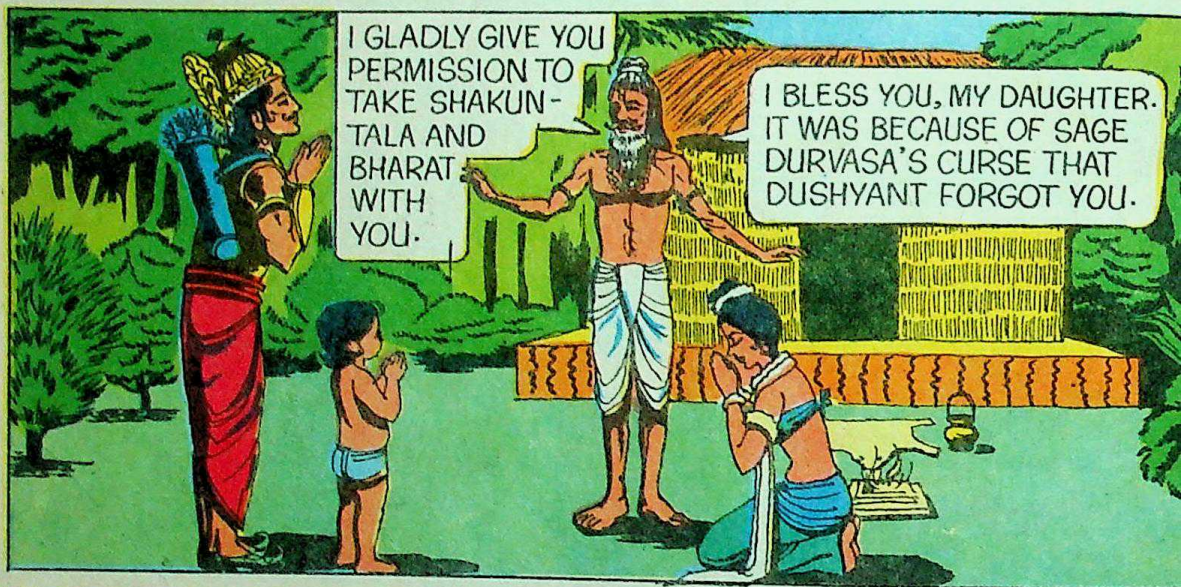
BUT FATHER, I MUST SHOW YOU ALL MY PET ANIMALS FIRST.



FATHER MARICHA, FATHER MARICHA! I HAVE THE MOST WONDERFUL NEWS FOR YOU. MY FATHER HAS AT LAST COME TO TAKE ME WITH HIM TO HIS KINGDOM.

THIS IS JOYFUL NEWS INDEED.

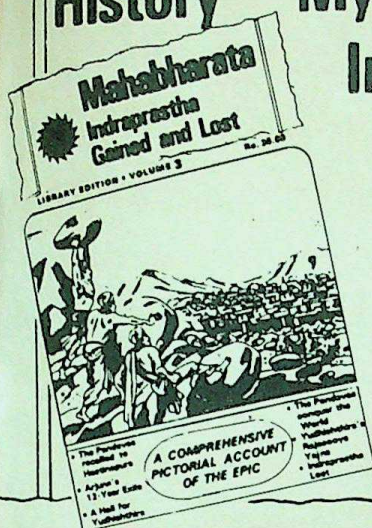




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